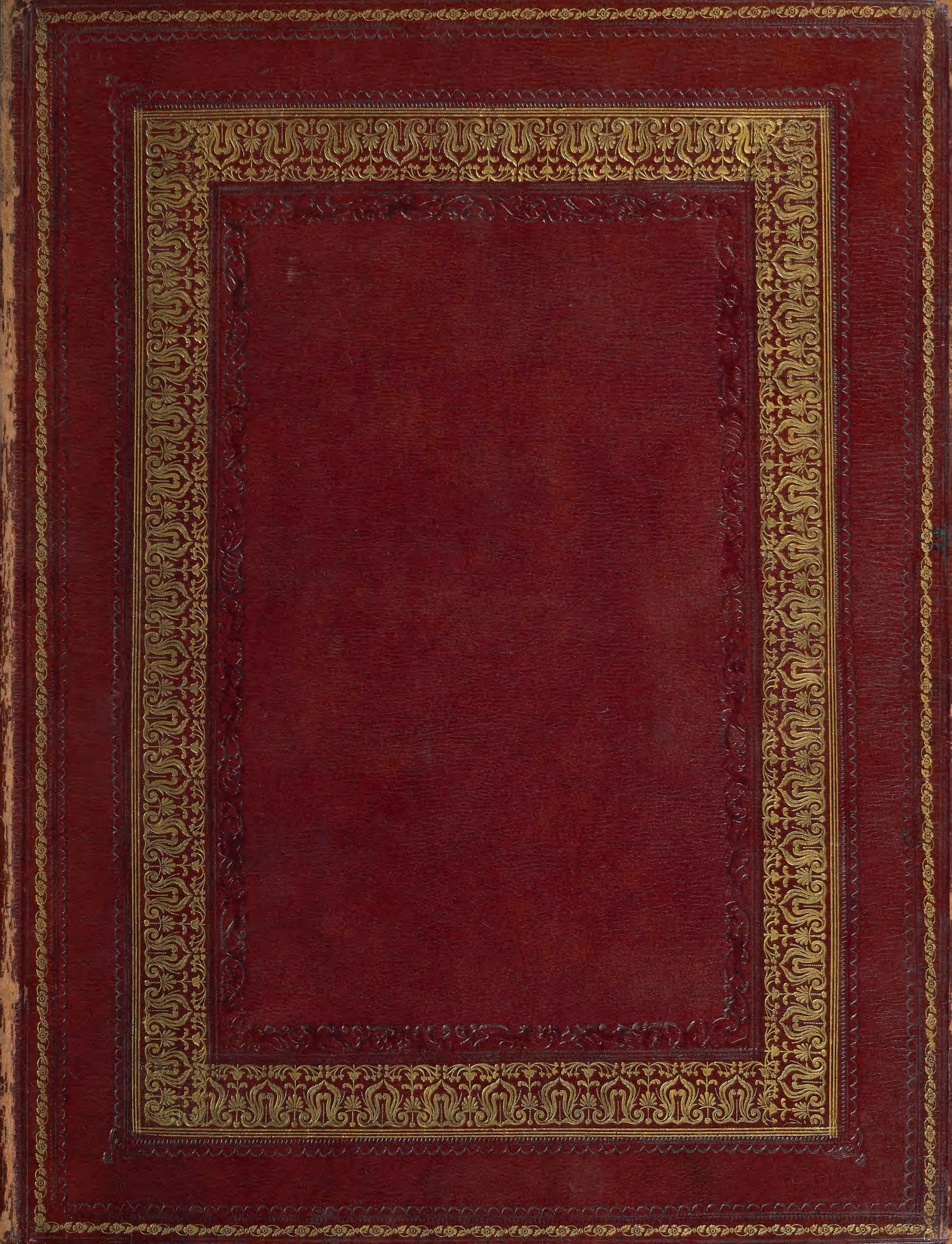

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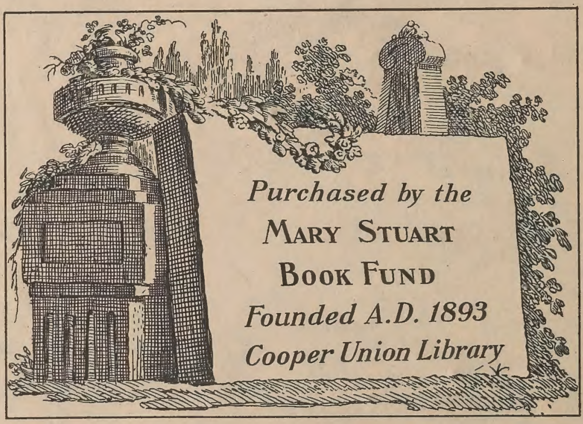

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A

CABINET

of

QUADRUPEDS,

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Descriptions

BY JOHN CHURCH. M.D.

VOL. 2.

LONDON:

Printed for Darton & Harvey

1805.

A
CABINET
OF
QUADRUPEDS,

with Historical and Scientific
Descriptions

BY JOHN CHURCH. F.M.S.

VOL. 2.

Drawn by J. Ibbetson.

Engrav'd by J. Tookey.

LONDON.
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Cabinet of Quadrupeds;

CONSISTING OF

HIGHLY-FINISHED ENGRAVINGS,

BY JAMES TOOKEY;

FROM

DRAWINGS, BY JULIUS IBBETSON;

WITH

HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DESCRIPTIONS,

BY JOHN CHURCH,

FELLOW OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

VOL. II.

London:
PRINTED FOR DARTON AND HARVEY, GRACECHURCH STREET;
AND W. BELCH, CARDIFF;
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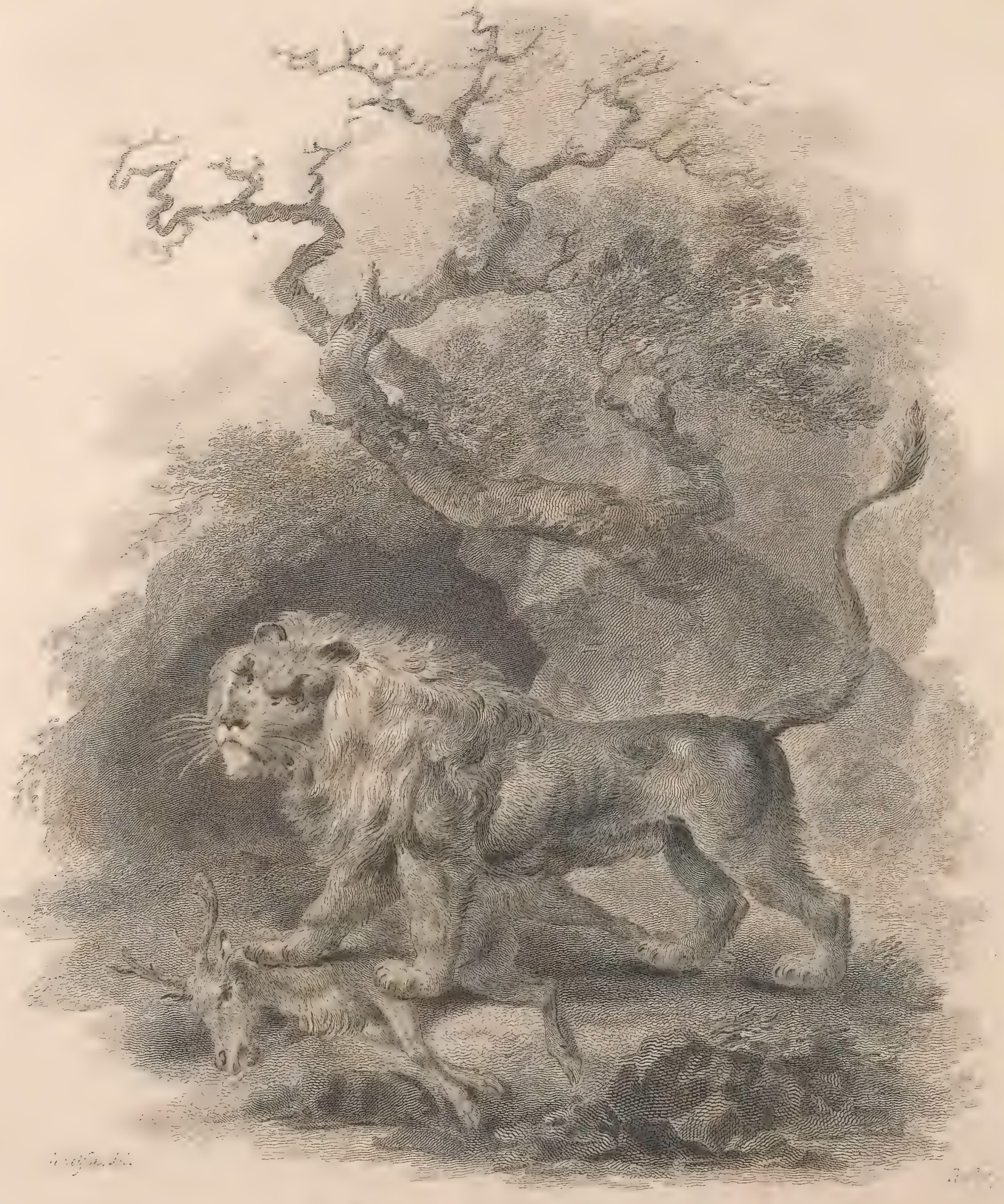

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LION

THE LION.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth, and ſix grinders in each jaw (A).
Five toes before; four behind.
Sharp hooked claws, lodged in a ſheath (B), capable of extenſion or retraction at pleaſure.
Head round, viſage ſhort, tongue rough.

(A) The members of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, who diſſected two Lions, give the following account of the teeth, which is ſomewhat different. "It had fourteen teeth in each jaw, viz. four inciſores, four canini, and ſix molares. The inciſores were little, and the canini very uneven, having two great and two ſmall ones. The great ones, which were an inch and an half long, are thoſe which Ariſtotle calls canini: but each of theſe was accompanied with another little one, which was at the ſide of the inciſores, and which left in the upper jaw, between it and the great one, as much void ſpace on each ſide, as was neceſſary to lodge and inſert the hook of the great caninus of the inferior jaw, in which there was likewiſe a ſpace between the great caninus and the firſt of the molares, deſigned to lodge the great caninus of the upper jaw, but which was much larger, to the end the lower jaw might be advanced forward occaſionally."—*Memoirs Royal Acad. Scien. Paris*, p. 4. We have carefully examined the mouth of a Lion, now in the Tower, and find the account given by the gentlemen of the Royal Academy is founded on fact. The ſame conformation is likewiſe obſervable in the teeth of the Leopard.

(B) The ſame accurate anatomiſts give the following curious account of the claws, which we cannot reſiſt the temptation of inſerting. "The claws had no caſes, as Pliny reports they have, to keep them from being dulled by walking; but it appears rather, that theſe animals, as Plutarch and Solinus obſerve, provided for that, by retracting them between their toes, by means of the particular articulation of the laſt joint, which was ſuch, that the laſt bone, ſave one, by bending itſelf outwards, gives place to the laſt, which is articulated to it, and to which the claw is faſtened, to bend itſelf upwards and ſideways, more eaſily than downwards; being drawn upwards, by means of a tendinous ligament, which faſtens together the two laſt bones in their ſuperior and external part only; and which, ſuffering a violent diſtention, when the toe is bent inwards, extends this laſt articulation, as ſoon as the flexor muſcles come to ſlacken, and ſtrengthens the action of the exterior muſcles; ſo that the bone, which is at the end of every toe, being almoſt continually bent upwards, it is not the end of the toes which reſts upon the ground, but the node of the articulation of

THE LION.

SYNONIMS.

LEO, *Plin. Hiſt. Nat.* lib. viii. c. 16. *Geſner Quad.* 572.
Raii Syn. Quad. 162.
FELIS LEO, *Linn. Syſt.* 60.
LOWE, *Klein Quad.* 81.
LION, *Pennant Syn. Quad.* 146.
LE LION, *de Buffon,* ix. i. *tab.* i. ii.

THE majeſtic deportment of the Lion, united with his decided ſuperiority over moſt other animals, has, as it were, by common conſent, obtained for him the title of the king of beaſts. Bold and confident in his look, and proud in his gait and demeanour, he commands reſpect at firſt ſight. His figure is ſtriking and his voice terrible. His length is ſometimes between eight and nine feet, and his height four feet and a half; notwithſtanding which, he is ſo far from appearing clumſy or unwieldy, that he may juſtly be conſidered as a perfect model of ſtrength and activity. His head is large and muſcular, and his face broad, ſurrounded with a long ſhaggy mane, which covers the top of his head, and extends along his neck, breaſt, and ſhoulders. This he can erect upon the leaſt irritation, when his eye-balls inſtantly flaſh fire, the muſcles of his face become convulſed, and form frightful wrinkles on his forehead and cheeks; he ſhews his tremendous teeth, and exhibits a ſpectacle of horrid grandeur, which beggars deſcription. The eyes of the Lion are lively and piercing, they are furniſhed with a membrane(A), which he can extend over them at pleaſure, like Owls, and moſt animals which hunt their prey in the dark; it

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the two laſt bones; and thus, in walking, the claws remain elevated and retracted between the toes; to wit, all thoſe of the right paws, towards the right ſide of every toe; and all thoſe of the left paws, towards the left ſide; the bending of the toes to walk being cauſed only by the tendons of the higher muſcles, and thoſe of the lower muſcle never moving, but when it is neceſſary to extend the claws, which proceed out of the toes when the laſt joint is bent downwards. This admirable ſtructure is not found in the great toe, whoſe laſt joint bends only downwards, becauſe that this toe reſts not on the ground, being ſhorter than the reſt, and having but two bones as is uſual."—*Ibid.* p. 3.

(A) *Ibid.* p. 4.

is probable that this circumſtance has given riſe to the common opinion, that the Lion always ſleeps with his eyes open. His eyebrows are large and lofty, and he wrinkles them in a manner equally menacing and terrible. His noſe is large and broad, his mouth wide, and his jaws are formed with prodigious ſtrength; his tongue is large and rough; it is covered with crooked pointed hard ſubſtances, reſembling the claws of a Cat in ſize and ſhape, and bent back towards the throat: this conformation of the tongue renders his careſſes particularly dangerous, for his licking ſoon benumbs and excoriates the place, ſo as to give him a taſte of the blood, which will infallibly tempt him to bite the limb he is careſſing. The general appearance and ſhape of the Lion is greatly altered by his ſhaggy mane; diveſt him of that, and he is much like the Lioneſs, except that his head is rather larger in proportion, and his face more muſcular. The hair under the belly is likewiſe much longer in the Lion than the Lioneſs. His tail, which is about four feet long, is not, as it appears to be, of the ſame thickneſs throughout, but gradually tapers, as in other quadrupeds: the deception ariſes from the lengthening of the hairs, as they approach towards the extremity of the tail, which is adorned with a large tuft of long hair. The legs and feet appear thick and large in proportion to the ſize of his body; they are amazingly ſtrong, yet withal ſo ſupple and active, that he moves with as much eaſe and agility as a Cat. The uſual colour of the Lion is a tawny yellow, inclining to white on the belly; but it is ſubject to ſome varieties.

In the burning and uninhabited deſerts of Zaara and Biledulgerid, the Lion is found replete with ſavage rage and undaunted ferocity. Accuſtomed to conquer every animal he meets, he becomes terrible and intrepid by habit, and appears not to know the ſenſations of fear. Unacquainted with the dangerous arts and arms of man, he ſeems neither to apprehend nor dread the power of them: he boldly defies and attacks his antagoniſt: reſiſtance and wounds ſerve but to provoke his rage, and increaſe his ardor, and, when he is overpowered by the ſuperior addreſs of his enemy, he ſcorns to ſeek his ſafety in flight, but, valiant in death, faces him to the laſt, and diſputes the victory till he is totally ſubdued. But, in the cooler regions, inhabited by man, the caſe alters; there, become prudent by experience, his natural boldneſs is abated, and ſhunning the unequal combat, he ſeeks to avoid thoſe weapons, which his valour will not enable him to ſubdue. Thus the courage of the Lion ſeems much to depend on the heat of the places he inhabits, and the degree of reſiſtance he meets with; and is ſometimes ſo much ſubdued, that even the crack of a whip (A), or a loud ſhout will ſcare him away; and women, nay, even children, are ſufficient to drive him from the cattle he is about to attack. It is probable, from this evident alteration in the diſpoſition of the Lion, that he is capable, in ſome meaſure, of receiving the impreſſions of education: he is certainly ſenſible of careſſes, and will lick his keeper's hand, and ſuffer his tongue and mouth to be handled with impunity; he even bears chaſtiſement with grave compoſure; but, like the Cat, his friendſhip is not to be depended on, and if his reſentment is once excited, the conſequences are terrible. It appears, however, from innumerable teſtimonies, that his anger is noble, and his courage magnanimous; and ſome inſtances are recorded, which prove him grateful; among others, the famous ſtory of Androclus the ſlave, related by Aulus Gellius. This man was compelled, by the ſeverity of his maſter, to eſcape by flight, and conceal himſelf in the deſert parts of Africa. Scorched by the burning heat of the ſun, he took ſhelter in a cave, which he met with; he had not remained there long, before a Lion entered the ſame cave, moaning and ſhewing evident marks of diſtreſs and pain; as ſoon as Androclus had recovered a little from the terror excited by the appearance of the tremendous animal, he obſerved that the Lion was lame in one of his feet, which he preſented to Androclus, ſeeming to entreat his aſſiſtance; encouraged by the gentle demeanour of the Lion, he ventured to examine his foot, in which he found a very large thorn ſtuck faſt; this he preſently extracted, and ſqueezed out the blood and matter from the wound, to which he applied proper remedies, and ſhortly completed the cure. During, this period, the Lion conſtantly brought him the beſt parts of the animals he

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(A) Sparrman.

killed, which, having no fire, he dreſſed by the heat of the ſun. They lived thus in harmony above three years, when Androclus, tired of the company of his ſavage friend, quitted the cavern and went to Rome, where he was ſoon recogniſed, and condemned to be torn in pieces by wild beaſts. A Lion was accordingly turned looſe upon him, which, as ſoon as he ſaw him, inſtead of attacking him, inſtantly pauſed, as if to recollect himſelf; then gradually approaching him, he began to fawn on him, and loaded him with his careſſes: when Androclus was recovered from his firſt panic, he ſoon recollected his old friend and companion in the cavern, who had been taken captive ſoon after their ſeparation, and by that means, had this opportunity given him of ſhowing his grateful remembrance of his friend's ſervices, by ſparing the life of him, from whom he had received ſo much benefit. Their joy and careſſes were mutual, the ſcene was truly affecting, and Androclus obtained his pardon (A.)

But a more recent inſtance of the Lion's recollection, is related by Mr. Hope (B,) in the following words: "One day that I had the honour of dining with the Dutcheſs of Hamilton, her Grace told the company, after dinner, if they had any curioſity to ſee her Lion, ſhe would attend them, and order the keeper to feed him. We gladly accepted the offer, and went down to the court, to ſee the Lion get his dinner. While we ſtood at the cage, admiring the fierceneſs of his looks, and his terrible roar, each time we provoked him with ſticks to fly at us and abandon his prey, the porter came and told the Dutcheſs, that a ſergeant, with ſome recruits at the gate, begged leave to be admitted to ſee the Lion. Her Grace, with great condeſcenſion and good-nature, aſked permiſſion of the company to let the travellers come in, as they would then have the ſatisfaction of ſeeing the animal fed. They were accordingly admitted, at the moment the Lion was growling over his prey. The ſergeant advancing to the cage, called out, "Nero, Nero, poor Nero, don't you know me?" The animal inſtantly turned his head and looked at him; then roſe up, left his prey, and came

(A) Aulus Gellius, lib. 5. cap. 14. (B) Thoughts, in Proſe and Verſe, by John Hope, Stockton, 1782.

"A farmer, who had the misfortune to ſee a Lion ſeize two of his Oxen, at the very inſtant that he had taken them from his waggon, informed me that they immediately fell down dead upon the ſpot, cloſe by each other, though, upon examining the carcaſes afterwards, it appeared that their backs had only been broken." But his conduct towards the human ſpecies appears to be more noble; ſatisfied with merely wounding his unhappy victim, he ſeldom deprives it of life, unleſs he is very much provoked; or at leaſt he waits ſome time before he gives the fatal blow. In ſupport of this opinion, the Doctor has favoured us with the two following narratives: "Near the upper part of Dayven-hoek Rivier, I myſelf," ſays he, "ſaw an elderly Hottentot, who at that time, his wounds being ſtill open, bore under one eye and directly upon his cheek-bone, the ghaſtly marks of a Lion's bite, which was the only chaſtiſement this noble animal had thought it worth his while to inflict upon him, for having, along with his maſter, whom I alſo knew, and ſeveral other Chriſtians, hunted him with great intrepidity, though unſucceſsfully." "The converſation turned every where, in this part of the country, upon one Bota, a farmer and a militia captain, who had lain for ſome time under a Lion, and had received ſeveral bruiſes from the beaſt, having been, at the ſame time, ſeverely bitten by him in one arm, as a memorial to remember him by; but, upon the whole, had his life given him by this generous animal." It muſt ſtill, however, remain a matter of doubt, whether this merciful diſpoſition of the Lion, towards man, is the effect of real generoſity; or whether it is the conſequence of mere caprice or want of appetite.

But let us take a view of the Lion in a ſtate of ſavage freedom, uncontrolled by the confinement of a cage, or the chains of ſlavery; and this we are enabled to do by the aſſiſtance of Dr. Sparrman, who penetrated far into the interior parts of Africa, and had frequent opportunities of obſerving the habits of this animal, as well as of being informed of them by the natives; we ſhall therefore cloſe this account with ſome obſervations and anecdotes chiefly on his authority.

THE LION.

From ſeveral facts related by the Doctor, it may fairly be inferred, that it is not true magnanimity, but rather an inſidious and cowardly diſpoſition, mixed with a certain degree of pride, which forms the character of the Lion; and that uncommon degree of courage and fortitude, which he ſometimes appears to poſſeſs, is perhaps more the effect of hunger than natural diſpoſition: unaccuſtomed to meet with any oppoſition, it is no wonder that he is ſoon daunted when he does, and that when he has once proved by experience the reſiſtance man is able to make againſt him, he ſhuns the unequal combat, and ſeeks his ſafety in flight.

The Lion will not attack any animal openly, unleſs he is urged by rage or extreme hunger; in either of theſe caſes, he is fearleſs of danger, and his fury is not to be checked by any reſiſtance. His method of ſeizing his prey, is generally to ſpring or throw himſelf on it, with one great leap from the place where he lies concealed. If by chance he miſſes his aim, the Hottentots unanimouſly agree he will not repeat the attack, but, as if aſhamed of his awkwardneſs, turning towards the place from whence he ſprang, he meaſures ſlowly, ſtep by ſtep, the exact length between the two points, as if it were to aſcertain the cauſe of his miſtake. The following narrative will ſerve to ſhew that this is his uſual mode of attack. "An elderly Hottentot, in the ſervice of a Chriſtian, near the upper part of Sunday-rivier, obſerved a Lion following him at a great diſtance, for two hours together: he naturally concluded that the Lion only waited the approach of night to make him his prey; and as he was at a conſiderable diſtance from home, with no weapon of defence except a ſtaff, he gave himſelf up for loſt. Being, however, well acquainted with the nature of the Lion, and his manner of ſeizing his prey, he availed himſelf of the leiſure he had, to conſider what would be the moſt probable means by which he would be deſtroyed; and, at laſt, providentially hit upon the following method of ſaving his life: he looked out for what is there called a *klipkrans,* which is a rocky place level at top, and having a perpendicular precipice on one ſide of it, and ſitting himſelf down on the edge of this precipice, he obſerved, to his great ſatisfaction, that the Lion alſo made a halt, and kept at the ſame diſtance as before. As ſoon as it began to grow dark, the Hottentot, ſliding gently forwards, let himſelf down below the upper edge of the precipice, upon a projecting part of the rock, where he had barely room to keep from falling: but in order to deceive the Lion, he ſet his hat and cloak on the ſtick, making with it a gentle motion juſt over his head, a little way from the edge of the precipice: this crafty expedient had the deſired effect: the Lion ſoon came creeping ſoftly towards him like a Cat, and miſtaking the ſkin cloak for the Hottentot himſelf, took his leap with ſuch exact preciſion, that he fell headlong down the precipice, and thus relieved the poor Hottentot from his fears and danger."

The Lion is hunted on horſeback in Africa, much in the ſame manner as they hunt the Elephant: as many particulars reſpecting the diſpoſition of this animal may be learned from it, we ſhall add the following conciſe account of it.

The hunters never venture to purſue the Lion on horſeback except on the open plains. If it keeps in ſome coppice, or wood, on a riſing ground, they teaſe it with Dogs, till it is provoked to come out; they generally go two or more in company, that one may aſſiſt and reſcue the other, if the firſt ſhot ſhould chance to miſs.

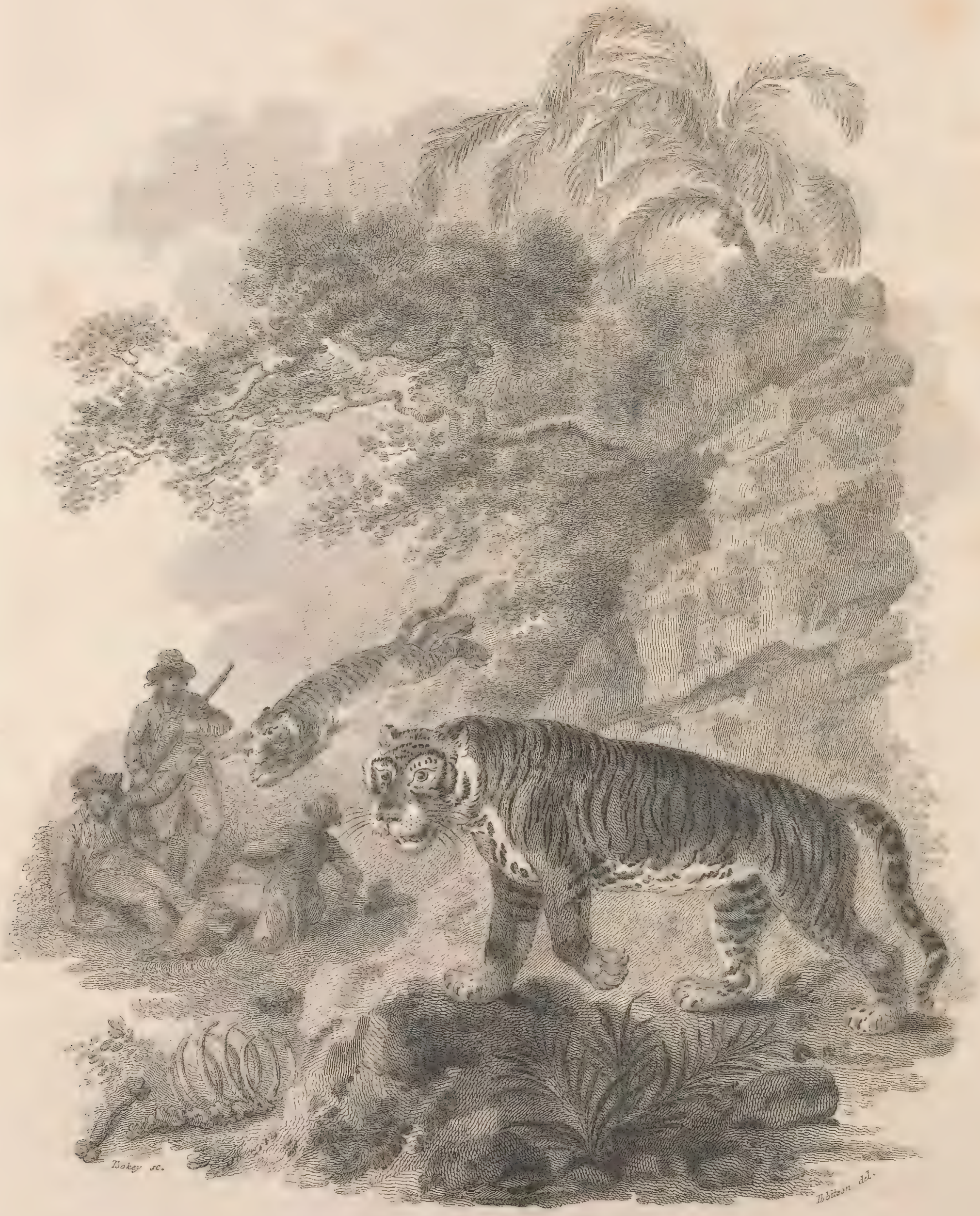
If the Lion firſt ſees the hunters at a conſiderable diſtance, he takes to his heels as faſt as he can, and endeavours to get out of ſight; but, if he is diiſcovered near, he walks off in a ſurly manner, without hurrying himſelf in the leaſt, as if he ſcorned to betray any fear. When he finds himſelf vigorouſly purſued, he is ſoon provoked to reſiſt, or at leaſt he diſdains to fly any longer. He now ſlackens his pace, and at length only ſidles away ſlowly, ſtep by ſtep, eyeing his purſuers aſkaunt as he retreats; at length he makes a ſtand, turns round to face them, and, giving himſelf a ſhake, he roars with a ſhort and ſharp tone, to ſhew his rage, being then in fact ready to ſeize on them and tear them in pieces. This is the preciſe time for the hunters to approach the Lion, keeping at a proper diſtance from each other, and he that is neareſt, and has the beſt mark preſented him of that part of the Lion's body which contains his heart and lungs, ſhould be the firſt to jump from his Horſe, and, ſecuring his bridle, by putting it round his arm, diſcharge his gun; then inſtantly recovering his ſeat, he muſt ride obliquely athwart his companions, and, giving the reins to his Horſe, muſt truſt entirely to his ſpeed and fear, to convey him from the reach and fury of the enraged beaſt, if he has only wounded, or totally miſſed him. In either caſe, a fair opportunity offers for ſome of the other hunters to fire in their turn, in the ſame manner, and divert the attention of the Lion from their companion. In this manner they mutually relieve each other, till the deſtruction of the beaſt cloſes the ſcene. There has never been an inſtance known of any accident happening to thoſe who hunt the Lion on horſeback, provided they are accuſtomed to the ſport, and conduct themſelves with prudence. The African Coloniſts being in general good markſmen, and far from deficient in courage.

The Lion is eaſily killed with a bullet: if it enters the heart or lungs, his death is immediate; but ſhould it wound the inteſtines, or lodge in the cavity of the abdomen, he is preſently thrown into vomitings, which diſable him from running.

The largeſt Lion is eaſily overcome by twelve or ſixteen of the common farm-houſe Dogs, provided they attack him in the day time, and on an open plain. As ſoon as the Dogs approach the Lion, he diſdains to fly any farther, but ſits himſelf down. The Hounds then get round him, and ruſhing on him all at once, are thus, with their united ſtrength, enabled to tear in pieces, almoſt in an inſtant, the ſtrongeſt of all wild beaſts, before he has time to give more than two or three ſlight ſtrokes with his paws; each of which, however, is inſtant death to the dog which is unfortunate enough to receive it.

It is difficult to deſcribe the roaring of the Lion, ſo as to convey an adequate idea of it: it conſiſts of a hoarſe, inarticulate, hollow ſound, ſomething like that which proceeds from a ſpeaking trumpet, but much more tremendous: it ſeems as if it proceeded from under the earth, and its ſlow, prolonged note, accompanied by the nocturnal darkneſs, and the terrible idea one is ready to form of this tremendous animal, never fails to make the moſt alarming impreſſion on the hearer, and ſerves as a warning to other animals to betake themſelves to flight; but as, according to univerſal report, he always puts his mouth to the ground when he roars, the ſound is equally diffuſed in all directions, ſo that it is impoſſible to aſcertain from what quarter it proceeds; the poor animals, therefore, are ſo affrighted and teaſed, that they fly about in every direction, and frequently run to the very ſpot they ought to ſhun, and become the eaſy prey of the animal they are ſo anxious to avoid. Dogs and cattle betray a conſciouſneſs of the vicinity of a Lion, whether he roars or not. Dr. Sparrman ſays, in this ſituation his Hounds did not venture to bark, but kept quite cloſe to the Hottentots; his Oxen and Horſes ſighed deeply, frequently hanging back, and pulling ſlowly with all their might at the ſtrong ſtraps with which they were tied up to the waggon. They alſo laid down on the ground and ſtood up alternately, as if they did not know what to do with themſelves; and this, as he obſerves, from pure inſtinct, having never ſeen a Lion in their lives.

The Lion is not very ſerviceable when dead; his hide is much inferior to that of the Cow, and ſeldom uſed, unleſs to ſupply the want of a better. The farmers near the Cape of Good Hope ſometimes uſe it as upper-leathers for their ſhoes, and ſay it is both pliable and laſting.



Tookey sc.

Ibbitson del.

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TIGER.

THE ROYAL TIGER.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting, and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on the fore-feet, four on thoſe behind.
Claws ſharp and hooked, lodged in a ſheath, capable of being extended or
drawn in at pleaſure.
Head round, viſage ſhort, tongue rough.

SYNONIMS.

FELIS TIGRIS, *Linn. Syſt.* 61.
TIGER, *Pennant Syn. Quad.* 121.
TIGRIS, *Plin.* lib. viii. c. 18. *Geſner Quad.* 936. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 165.
FELIS FLAVA, *Briſſon Quad.* 194.
LE TIGRE, *de Buffon,* ix. 129. *tab.* ix.

THE Royal Tiger is certainly the moſt beautiful creature of the Cat kind; but, as if it were to ſhew the danger of attachment to beauty, merely for its own ſake, it is at the ſame time the moſt cruel, rapacious, and deſtructive animal in the creation.

The ſize of the Royal Tiger is often ſuperior to that of the Lion; its uſual length, when full grown, is about nine feet, and it frequently is four feet ten inches in height; notwithſtanding which, it is poſſeſſed of as much agility as the Cat, united with prodigious ſtrength; thus qualified, it is no wonder that it carries dread and devaſtation wherever it goes. The Tiger reſembles the Cat in its general form. Its colour is a full yellow, inclining to fawn colour, which is deeper on the back, and becomes gradually lighter as it approaches towards the belly, where it is white, as are alſo the throat and the inſide of the legs; the whole body is beautifully marked with deep black ſtripes or bands, which run in the ſame direction as the ribs, from the back down to the belly, and form a ſtriking and elegant contraſt with the yellow: round each eye there is a white ſpace ſpotted with black, and a ſtripe of the ſame colour extends along the cheeks, from the ear to the throat; the legs are yellow, with ſome black ſtripes on them, the hair is beautifully gloſſy and ſmooth, and looks like very fine velvet.

The Royal Tiger may be conſidered as one of the ſcarceſt of Quadrupeds, and much leſs diffuſed than the Lion: it is a native of the Eaſt Indies, where it is only to be found in the warmeſt regions.

The Tiger is ſeldom heard to roar, with much violence, in a ſtate of captivity; but, when he ranges at large the tyrant of the foreſts, his cry is horrible beyond deſcription. It begins by intonations and reflections which are at firſt deep, melancholy, and ſlow; theſe preſently become more acute, when ſuddenly collecting himſelf, he ſends forth a violent cry, interrupted by long tremulous ſounds, which make a diſtracting impreſſion upon the mind. The night is the time when his roarings are uſually heard, the horror of which is increaſed by the ſilence and darkneſs, and his cries are repeated by the echoes of the mountains.

At the dreaded appearance of this cruel monſter, which always ſeems to tremble with a ſavage joy at the ſight of the animal whoſe blood he is about to drink, moſt other creatures think only of flight, which is often unavailing: if the Bear has not time to aſcend a tree, he is dead: the Dog has ſcarcely a moment allowed him to utter the cry of deſpair, he is inſtantly ſeized and torn in pieces: a large Bull is preſently overthrown, and dragged away with eaſe: the wild male Buffalo indeed will dart at his enemy, but if he is alone, he ſoon falls a victim to his cruel antagoniſt(A).

“ A peaſant, in the Sundah Rajha’s dominions, had a Buffalo fallen into a quagmire, and while he went for aſſiſtance, a large Tiger, with its ſingle ſtrength, drew forth the animal, though the united force of many men was inſufficient for the purpoſe. The firſt object which preſented itſelf to the people on their return to the place, was the Tiger, who had thrown the

(A) D’Obſonville.

Buffalo over his ſhoulder, as a Fox does a Gooſe, and was carrying it away, with the feet upwards, towards its den; as ſoon as it ſaw the men, it let fall its prey, and inſtantly fled to the woods: but it had previouſly killed the Buffalo, and ſucked its blood. The Indian Buffalo uſually weighs a thouſand pounds, which is twice the weight of our black cattle; from hence ſome idea may be formed of the enormous ſtrength of this cruel and rapacious animal, which could run off with a creature twice its own weight with ſuch apparent eaſe (A)."

Father Tachard gives an account of a combat he ſaw between a Tiger and three Elephants at Siam, which we ſhall inſert, to furniſh a more complete idea of the amazing ſtrength and courage of this terrible animal. A lofty paliſade was built with bamboo cane, an hundred feet ſquare; and in the midſt of this place were three Elephants appointed for combating the Tiger. Their heads and a part of their trunks were covered with a kind of armour, to defend thoſe parts from the claws of their fierce adverſary. "As ſoon," ſays he, "as we arrived at the place, a Tiger was brought forth from its den, of a ſize much larger than we had ever ſeen before. It was not at firſt let looſe, but held with cords, ſo that one of the Elephants approaching, gave it three or four terrible blows, with its trunk, on the back, with ſuch force, that the Tiger was for ſome time ſtunned, and lay without motion, as if it had been dead. However, as ſoon as it was let looſe, and at full liberty, although the firſt blows had greatly abated its fury, it made at the Elephant with a loud ſhriek, and aimed at ſeizing his trunk. But the Elephant, wrinkling it up with great dexterity, received the Tiger on his great teeth, and toſſed it up into the air. This ſo diſcouraged the furious animal, that it no more ventured to approach the Elephant, but made ſeveral circuits round the paliſade, often attempting to fly at the ſpectators. Shortly after, three Elephants were ſent againſt it, and they continued to ſtrike it ſo terribly with their trunks, that it once more lay for dead; and they would certainly have killed it, had not there been a ſtop put to the combat."

"From this account, we may readily judge of the ſtrength of this animal, which, though reduced to captivity, and held by cords, though firſt diſabled,

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(A) Captain Hamilton.

and ſet alone againſt three, yet ventured to continue the engagement, and even that againſt animals covered and protected from its fury."

Mr. D'Obſonville relates, that he had occaſion to traverſe one of the defiles of High Canara, ſituated between Boncombondi and Baſſovapatnam, in company with Mr. de Maiſonpré: at this place they were informed a Royal Tiger had, for ſome time paſt, committed dreadful ravages. "When we came to the place," ſays he, "we ſaw him lying in the ſun; and, as we approached at the diſtance of about twenty paces, he inſtantly aroſe; but, ſeeing many of us well armed, he climbed with agility up the other part of the mountain, diſturbed but not afraid. He appeared to us nearly as high as a middle-ſized poney. As we were accompanied by ſix choſen ſeapoys, it is more than probable we might have killed him, but we were encumbered with horſes, and on a ſtony road, not above eight or ten feet wide, at the edge of which was a precipice: it would, therefore, have been very imprudent to have attacked an animal which, though wounded, would not have fallen unrevenged.

"We had not gone above ten paces from the place where the Tiger had lain, before we ſaw a tolerably large Dog, with long hair, come from behind a rock, the maſter of which had perhaps been devoured: the poor animal jumped upon us, careſſed us exceedingly, and would not leave us."

Many intelligent Indians aſſert, that the Tiger prefers the Dog to any other food, and that they will ſometimes ſteal them by night from houſes where there are other animals, which they will leave untouched. It has alſo been obſerved, that Dogs, even when young, and conſequently inexperienced, have been ſeized with an univerſal trembling at the ſight of a Tiger, and ſeemed ſenſible of the great danger they were in. Perhaps that innate and almoſt unconquerable repugnance between the Dog and Cat, the latter being nearly related to the Tiger, is only the remains of this inſtinctive antipathy.

The Tiger is fierce without provocation, and cruel without neceſſity; when he meets with a herd of cattle, he levels all with indiſcriminate cruelty, and hardly finds time to appeaſe his appetite, while intent on ſatisfying the malignity of his nature; if undiſturbed, he plunges his head into the body of the animal up to the eyes, as if it were to ſatiate himſelf with blood, of which he drinks every drop before he tears the body in pieces(A). He does not purſue his prey, but lurks among the buſhes, on the ſides of rivers, from whence he ſprings or bounds on the unhappy victim with an elaſticity and from a diſtance ſcarcely credible: if he miſs his aim, he inſtantly makes off, and does not renew the attack. “I was informed, by very good authority,” ſays Mr. Pennant, “that, in the beginning of this century, ſome ladies and gentlemen, being on a party of pleaſure, under a ſhade of trees, on the banks of a river in Bengal, obſerved a Tiger preparing for its fatal ſpring; one of the ladies, with amazing preſence of mind, laid hold of an umbrella, and furled it full in the animal's face, which inſtantly retired, and gave the company opportunity of removing from ſo terrible a neighbour (B).”

Another party, the memory of one of which is ſtill dear to thoſe who knew his worth, had not the ſame good fortune. The event is thus related, by a gentleman who was an eye-witneſs of the horrid ſcene. “Yeſterday morning, Dec. 22, 1792, Mr. Downey, Lieut. Pyefinch, poor Mr. Munro(C), and myſelf went on ſhore, on Saugur Iſland, to ſhoot Deer. We ſaw innumerable tracks of them, as well as of Tigers; notwithſtanding which we continued our ſport till half paſt three, when we ſat down on the edge of the jungle, to refreſh ourſelves, and had juſt commenced our meal, when we were told a fine Deer was within ſix yards of us: Mr. Downey and I immediately jumped up, to take up our guns; I had but juſt laid hold of mine, when I heard a roar like thunder, and ſaw an immenſe Royal Tiger ſpring on the unfortunate Munro, who was ſitting down: in a moment his head was in the beaſt's mouth, and he ruſhed into the jungle with him, with as much eaſe as I could lift a kitten; tearing him through the thickeſt buſhes and trees, every thing yielding to his monſtrous ſtrength. The agonies of horror, regret, and, I muſt ſay, fear, (for there were two Tigers, a male and a female), ruſhed on me at once; the only effort I could make, was to fire at him, though the poor youth was ſtill in his mouth. I relied partly on Providence, partly on my own aim, and fired a muſket. The Tiger ſtaggered and ſeemed agitated, which I took notice of to my

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(A) Pennant.

(B) Pennant's Syn. Quad. 168.

(C) Only ſon of Sir Hector Munro, K.B.

companions. Mr. Downey then fired two ſhots and I one more. We retired from the jungle, and a few minutes after, Mr. Munro came up to us, all over blood, and fell. We took him on our backs to the boat, and got every medical aſſiſtance for him, from the Valentine Eaſt Indiamen, but in vain; he lived twenty-four hours in the utmoſt torture; his head and ſkull were torn and broke to pieces, and he was wounded by the claws, all over his neck and ſhoulders; but it was better to take him away, though irrecoverable, than leave him to be mangled and devoured.

"I muſt obſerve, there was a large fire blazing cloſe to us, compoſed of ten or a dozen whole trees; and eight or ten of the natives were about us; many ſhots had been fired near the ſpot, and there was much noiſe and laughing at the time; but this ferocious animal diſregarded all.

"The human mind cannot form an idea of the ſcene; it turned my very ſoul within me. The beaſt was about four feet and a half high, and nine long. His head appeared as large as an Ox's, his eyes darted fire, and his roar, when he firſt ſeized his prey, will never be out of my recollection. We had ſcarcely puſhed our boat from that curſed ſhore, when the Tigreſs made her appearance, raging mad almoſt, and remained on the ſand, as long as the diſtance would allow me to ſee her."

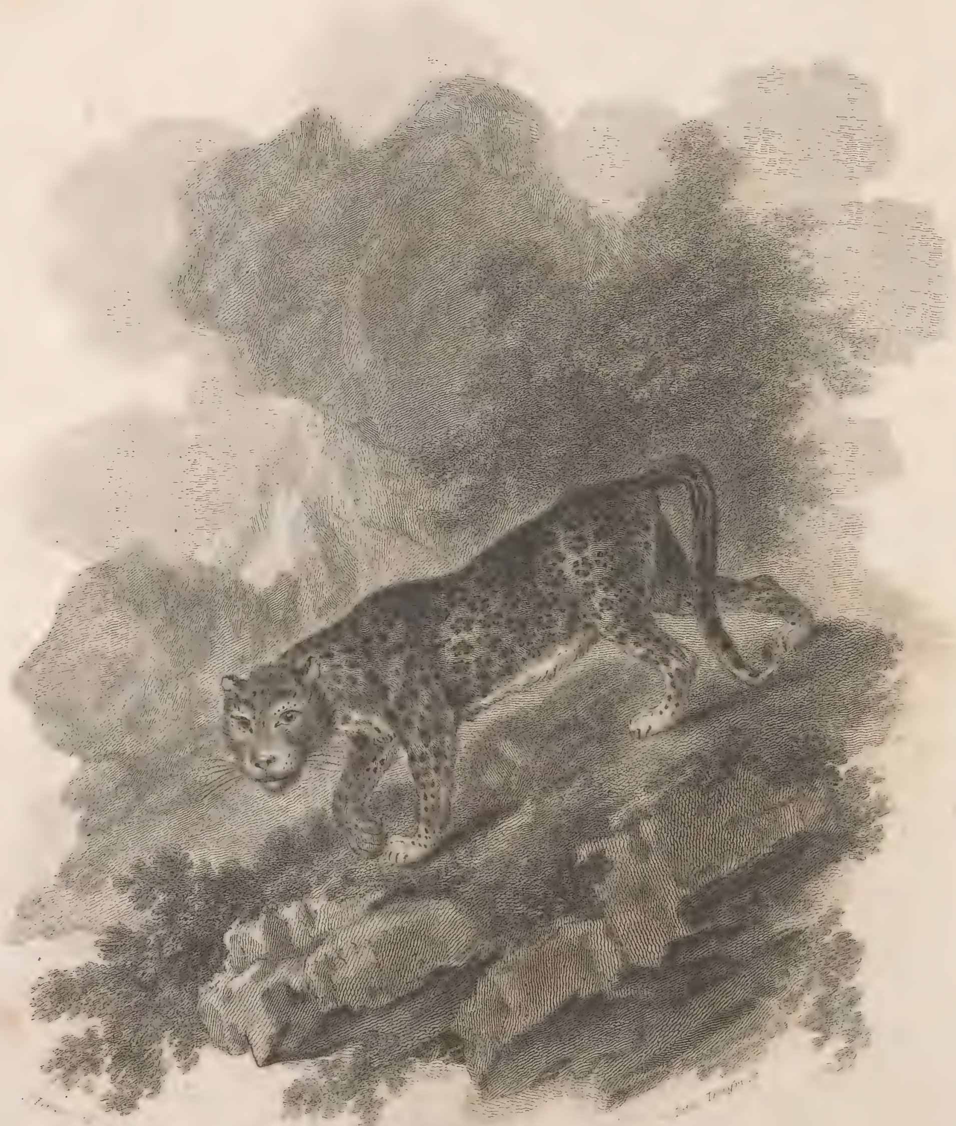
Thus is the Tiger the ſcourge of the countries where he is found; he fears neither man nor beaſt, and will attack the Lion, Elephant, and Rhinoceros, and often with ſucceſs. His ſpirit ſeems untameable, neither force nor kindneſs can make the leaſt impreſſion on his ſtubborn nature. The careſſes of his keeper have no influence on his heart of iron; he ſnaps at the hand which feeds him, and ſeems to conſider every living object as deſtined for his prey. When the Tiger expreſſes his reſentment, he ſhews his teeth, moves the muſcles and ſkin of his face, and ſends forth horrible ſhrieks.

Hunting the Tiger is a favourite amuſement with ſome of the eaſtern princes, who go in ſearch of them, attended by conſiderable bodies of men well mounted and armed with lances; as ſoon as they are rouſed, they are inſtantly attacked by pikes, arrows, and ſabres on all ſides, and preſently deſtroyed; but this diverſion is always attended with danger, for if the Tiger feels himſelf wounded, he ſeldom retreats without ſacrificing ſome one to his vengeance.

The female Tiger goes three months with young, and produces ſeveral at a litter(A): it is therefore no wonder that the endeavours of the inhabitants, to extirpate this cruel and deſtructive creature, prove ineffectual. Whilſt ſhe has young ones to bring up, ſhe exceeds, if poſſible, her uſual rapacity: if her young are taken from her during her abſence, ſhe purſues the robber with inconceivable fury, who, to ſave a part, is contented to loſe a part, and lets fall one of her cubs, which ſhe immediately carries to her den, and inſtantly renews the purſuit; he then drops another, and by the time ſhe has placed that in ſafety, he generally gets clear off with the remainder. If ſhe cannot find any of her young, ſhe then becomes deſperate; boldly approaching towns, and committing horrid ſlaughter wherever ſhe goes.

The only benefit man derives from this dreadful animal is the ſkin, which is held in high eſteem all over the Eaſt, and particularly in China, where the mandarins cover their ſeats of juſtice with it, and apply it to other purpoſes: perhaps it acquires an additional value from the difficulty and danger with which it is procured.

(A) D'Obſonville.



LEOPARD

THE LEOPARD.

Generic Characters.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on the fore-feet; four on thoſe behind.
Claws hooked, ſharp, and lodged in a ſheath, capable of being extended or drawn in at pleaſure.
Head round, viſage ſhort, tongue rough.

Synonims.

Unica, *Caii Opuſc.* 42. *Geſner Quad.* 825.
Le Leopard, *de Buffon,* ix. 151. *tab.* xiv.
Leopard, *Pennant Syn. Quad.* 123.

THE Leopard emulates the Tiger in the elegance of his form, and the beautiful marking with which his ſkin is adorned; the colour of his hair is a lively yellow, he is ornamented on the back and ſides with ſmall black ſpots, which are diſpoſed in circles not far diſtant from each other; his face and legs are marked with ſingle black ſpots; the hairs on the breaſt and belly are longer than thoſe on the reſt of the body, and they are of a whitiſh colour; the tail is yellow, and adorned with oblong black marks; the length of the body is four feet from the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is two feet and a half. This animal ſeems to be ſubject to greater variety of colour, than is uſually obſerved in wild creatures; indeed it is ſeldom that two of them are ſeen exactly alike.

The general appearance of the Leopard is fierce, his eye is reſtleſs, and his countenance cruel; his motions are ſhort and precipitate; he attacks and devours every animal he meets, ſparing neither man nor beaſt; and when thoſe which are wild, are inſufficient to ſatiate his cruel appetite, he deſcends with great numbers from their lurking places, and makes dreadful deſtruction among the numerous herds of cattle, which adorn the fertile meadows of the lower Guinea. He tears his prey both with teeth and claws, and although he is conſtantly devouring, his appearance is always thin (A.)

The method generally uſed by the negroes to take this animal, is to dig pits and cover them ſlightly over with ſlender hurdles, on which a piece of fleſh is placed as a bait.

The fleſh of the Leopard is eaten by the negroes, and is ſaid to be as white as veal, and as well taſted.

The ſkins are brought into Europe, and held in high eſtimation; ſome of the moſt beautiful being ſold for eight or ten guineas each.

The Leopard inhabits Senegal, Guinea, and moſt parts of Africa. He delights in the thickeſt foreſts, and frequents the borders of rivers, to wait for animals which come there to quench their thirſt.

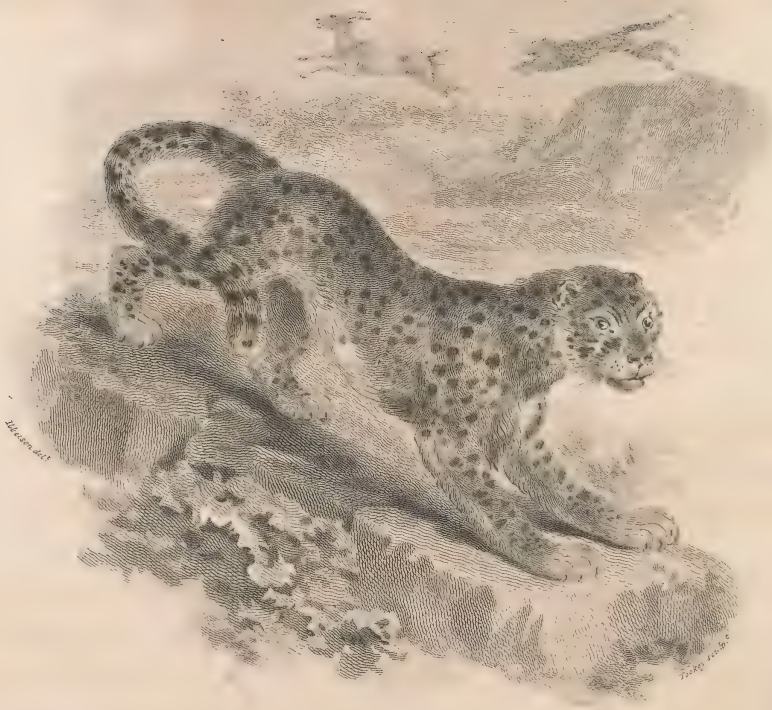
An ingenious French philoſopher (B) remarks, that nature employs claſhing oppoſitions of colour, and other omnious ſigns to expreſs the characters of ſavage and dangerous animals of all kinds, and to warn man of their approach or preſence. Thus, the Lion announces his vicinity by tremendous roarings, which reſemble thunder, and by the vivid and inſtantaneous flaſhes which proceed from his eyes in the dark: the Tiger, Panther, &c. are rendered conſpicuous by their beautiful colour and markings; the cries of birds of prey are ſhrill and piercing; the Gnat hums, and the Waſp is ſpeckled like the Tiger, with black ſtripes on a yellow ground. If there be any truth in this obſervation, it is in no inſtance more remarkable than in the animal we have juſt been treating of, the beautiful yellow colour of whoſe ſkin, adorned as it is with elegant black markings, forms a contraſt which renders him conſpicuous at a conſiderable diſtance, and gives the object of his purſuit ſome chance of eſcaping from his fury.

A variety of this animal is found in the Eaſt Indies, which has been called the Leſſer Leopard. Its general colour is much paler than that of the Leopard

(A) Pennant. (B) De Saint-Pierre.

of Senegal, and inclines more to ochre; the face is ſpotted with black, as are the breaſt and belly, but the ſpots are ſmaller: the belly is white, ſpotted with black; the back, ſides, and rump, are yellowiſh, and beautifully marked with circles of black ſpots; the tail, which is ſhort in proportion to the length of the body, tapers to a point.

The late Sir Aſhton Lever had one of theſe animals, which he kept in a cage at Leiceſter Houſe. We have often admired and careſſed this creature, who always ſeemed pleaſed and gratified by the attention paid it, purring and rubbing its ſides againſt the cage like a cat. Sir Aſhton preſented it to the royal menagery in the Tower, in which ſituation we ſaw it, after an interval of more than a year, notwithſtanding which ſeparation, it appeared perfectly to recogniſe its old acquaintance, and began to renew its careſſes as uſual; hence it appears, that this animal is capable of recollection and attachment.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HUNTING LEOPARD.

THE HUNTING LEOPARD.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting, and two canine teeth in each jaw.

Five toes before, four behind.

Sharp hooked claws, lodged in a ſheath, that may be extended or drawn in at pleaſure.

Round head, ſhort viſage, and rough tongue.

SYNONIMS.

FELIS JUBATA, *Schreber*, CV.

LE GUEPARP, *de Buffon*, xiii. 249.

LE LEOPARD, *Voy. de Boullaye-le-gouz*, 248.

HUNTING LEOPARD, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. i. p. 284.

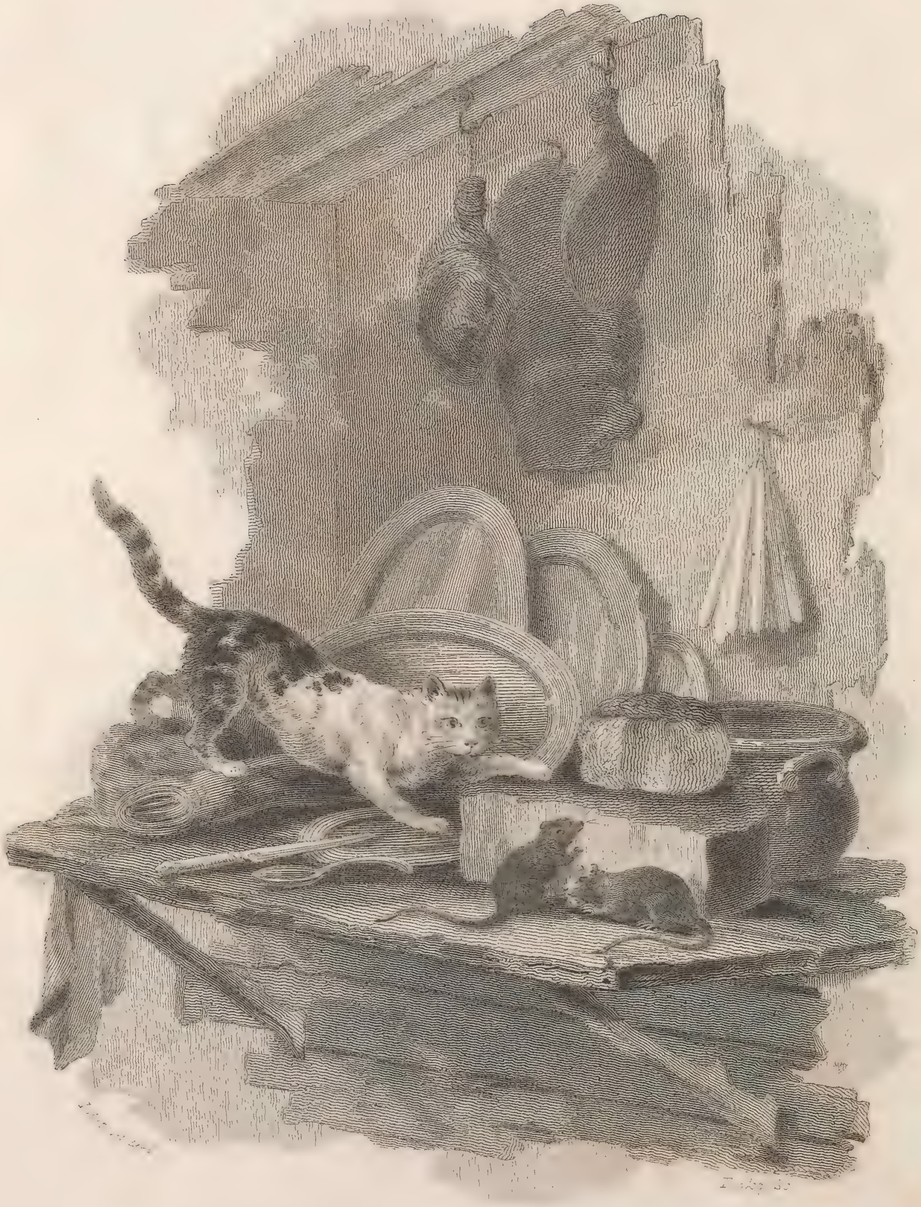
THIS creature, notwithſtanding the natural ferocity attached to its genus, is frequently tamed by the Indian hunters, and rendered ſubſervient to their intereſts, in purſuing Antelopes, Jackalls, and other beaſts of chaſe.

It is about the ſize of a large Greyhound, with a ſmall head, ſhort ears, narrow cheſt, and long legs. Its face, chin, and throat, are of a light brown colour, inclining to yellow; the irides of its eyes are of a pale orange; the end of the noſe is black. From each corner of the mouth, to that of each eye, runs a duſky line: the ears are tawny, and marked with a brown ſtripe. The body is of a tawny brown, diverſified with round black ſpots; the inſides of the legs, however, are plain, and the belly is white. The hair on the top of the neck is longer than the reſt; the tail is of a conſiderable length, of a reddiſh brown colour, and marked on the upper ſurface with black ſpots.

THE HUNTING LEOPARD.

The Hunting Leopard, when properly trained for the chaſe of Antelopes, is hood-winked, and ſecured in a ſmall kind of waggon, till it approaches the herd; when, being ſet at liberty, it winds ſlowly and cautiouſly along the ground, occaſionally ſtopping and concealing itſelf till it gains an advantageous ſituation. It then darts on the unſuſpecting animals with aſtoniſhing agility, and generally overtakes them by the rapidity of its bounds; but, if its firſt efforts, conſiſting of five or ſix ſurpriſing leaps, happen to prove ineffectual, it prudently relinquiſhes the fruitleſs purſuit, and, after ſtopping to regain its breath, readily returns to its maſter.

This ſpecies of Leopard is known in India by the name of the Chittah.



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CAT.

THE CAT.

Generic Characters.

Six cutting teeth, and two canine teeth, in each jaw.
Five toes before, four behind.
Sharp hooked claws, lodged in a ſheath, that may be exerted or drawn in at pleaſure.
Round head, and ſhort viſage: rough tongue.

Synonims.

(Wild Cat.) Catus sylvestris. Boumriiter. *Geſner Quad.* 325.
Catus sylvestris, ferus vel feralis, eques arborum. *Klein Quad.* 75.
Wilde Katze. *Kram. Auſtr.* 311.
Felis sylvestris. *Briſſon Quad.* 192.
Kot Driki, Zbik. *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 217. *Schreber,* cvii. A. cvii. B.
Le Chat sauvage. *De Buffon,* vi. 1. *tab.* i. *Brit. Zool.* i. 67.
Common Cat. *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. i. p. 295.

IN the gentle habits of our common domeſtic Cat, we have a ſtriking exhibition of the conciliatory effects of kind uſage, even on diſpoſitions the moſt ferocious.

This demure looking creature, ſitting ſo placidly by the fireſide, is no other than a deſcendant of the *Ferus,* or Wild Cat, the moſt fierce and deſtructive animal which yet continues to range the woods and wilds of theſe iſlands, deſtroying poultry, lambs, and kids, as well as vermin and different kinds of game.

THE CAT.

The Wild Cat, which has been called the Britiſh Tiger, though found in every quarter of the globe, is three or four times as large as the Houſe Cat, and very ſtrongly made, with tremendous claws and teeth. It lives moſtly in trees, feeding chiefly by night; for prowling at which ſeaſon it ſeems peculiarly adapted. Not having the delicate ſcent of the Dog, it depends only upon its ſight, lying cloſely in ambuſh, and attacking animals by ſurpriſe. The pupil of its eye is capable of great contraction and dilatation: it is narrow, like a line, during the glare of day; but round and wide in the dark, which gives it great advantage in diſcovering and ſeizing its prey. Its long, ſoft hair, is of a yellowiſh white colour, and of a deepiſh grey; really, though rather indiſtinctly, diſpoſed like the ſtreaks of the Tiger's ſkin.

How changed from the wild animal is that which we rear in our houſes! but which retains enough of its ſanguinary diſpoſition, to effectually rid us from thoſe deſtructive and troubleſome little creatures, by which we ſhould otherwiſe be overrun. In the deſtruction of theſe vermin, it gives a diſguſting proof of its native cruelty; for, when it has got them within its clutches, it affects to let them eſcape, and ſeems to ſport with the feelings of the little victims, till, by a *coup de grace* from its jaws, it relieves them from their horrors, and gluts itſelf with blood.

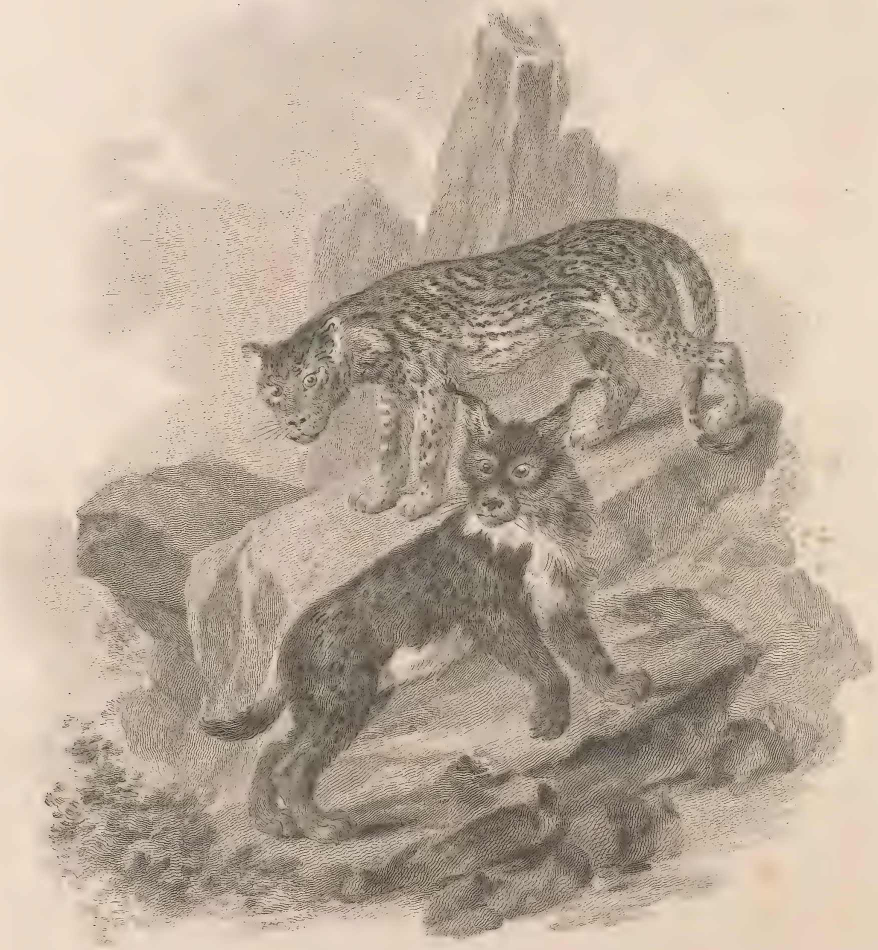
While the Cat of the woods ſhews ſo very little diverſity of colour in its fur, it is well known that the Houſe Cat, like other animals changed by domeſtication, exhibits the greateſt variety. This creature, when young, is extremely playful; but, with age, it loſes its ſportive habits, and puts on the appearance of great gravity and ſedateneſs. When pleaſed it purrs, moves its tail, and rubs itſelf againſt the perſon who takes notice of it. It is is alſo fond of rubbing itſelf againſt thoſe who carry any kind of perfume, and is fond of the ſmell of valerian, marum, catmint, and certain aromatics, to diſtraction; whilſt it ſhews the greateſt diſlike to bad ſmells. Its ſleep is very light; it is extremely vigilant, and ſo artful as to imitate the appearance of death, for the purpoſe of deceiving the unſuſpecting object of its prey. When irritated it ſets up its back, laſhes with its tail, ſpits, hiſſes, and ſtrikes with its foot.

THE CAT.

The Cat, though ſo uſeful a domeſtic, ſeems perfectly untractable, or incapable of any attachment unconnected with its own eaſe, comfort, or gratification. Its diſingenuity of character has been thought to be pourtrayed in the obliquity of its movements, and the ambiguity of its looks; but this delicate, cleanly, and voluptuous animal, ſeeking the ſofteſt and warmeſt places to repoſe on, though ſo active and fierce, is timid and miſtruſtful, dreading blows and every violence; feeling, as it were, conſcious of its weakneſs and the tenderneſs of its ſkin, which alſo may account for its great antipathy to water, humidity, and cold. Though peculiarly fond of fiſh, it very ſeldom ventures to wet its foot by ſeizing them in their own element; though inſtances have ſometimes occurred to the contrary. The Cat, different from other carnivorous animals, has its claws retractile. It can bend them backwards, and fix them between its toes, when it has no occaſion for them. This preſerves their edge and their point, and enables the animal to tread without noiſe, and to touch ſoftly. The Cat's eyes ſhine in the dark; its hair, when rubbed, emits electric ſparks, and, on the approach of a ſtorm, it is obſerved to ſhew its ſenſibility of the change in the atmoſphere, by its rubbing and waſhing its face with its fore feet.

Cats are about eighteen months in acquiring their full growth; but are capable of propagation in twelve, and retain this faculty nine or ten years, nearly the term of their life. The female goes with young from fifty-five to fifty-eight days, producing four or five at a litter.

The old popular tale of Whittington and his Cat may be a fiction, or not traceable to any good authority; but this animal was once of ſuch great account in our iſland, that we cannot but ſuppoſe that the creature, which multiplied ſo faſt, muſt then have been but lately imported. In the tenth century, the Welch prince *Hoel Adda*, or Howel the Good, among his laws relating to the prices, &c. of animals, included that of the Cat, and deſcribed its neceſſary qualities. The price of a kitten before it could ſee was to be a penny; till it caught a mouſe, twopence; when it commenced mouſer, fourpence; which at that day were conſiderable ſums: but it was required that it ſhould be perfect in its ſenſes of ſeeing and hearing, be a good mouſer, have the claws whole, and be a good nurſe; and, if it failed in any of theſe qualities, the ſeller was to forfeit to the buyer the third part of its value. If any one ſtole or killed the Cat that guarded the Prince's granary, he was to forfeit a milch ewe, its fleece and lamb; or as much wheat as, when poured on a Cat ſuſpended by its tail, (the head touching the floor,) would form a heap high enough to cover the whole creature to the tip of the tail.



OCELOT

&

LYNX.

THE OCELOT.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes before; four behind.
Claws ſharp and hooked, lodged in a ſheath that may be exerted or drawn in at pleaſure.
Head round, viſage ſhort, tongue rough.

SYNONIMS.

FELIS SYLVESTRIS AMERICANUS, TIGRINUS, *Seb. Muſ.* i. 47. *tab.* xxx. *fig.* 2 and 177. *tab.* xlviii. *fig.* 2.
TLACOOZELOTL; TLACOCELOTL. CATUS PARDUS MEXICANUS, *Hernandez Mexican.* 512.
L'OCELOT, *de Buffon,* xiii. 239. *tab.* xxxv. xxxvi.

THE male Ocelot is a very beautiful quadruped, the elegant variety of the ſtripes and ſpots with which it is adorned, added to the richneſs of its colours, rendering it a moſt charming creature. It is two feet and a half in length, from the end of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail (A.) The head, back, upper part of the rump, and tail, are of a bright tawny colour; the top of the back is adorned with a black ſtripe, which extends the whole length from the head to the tail; the forehead is ſpotted with black, and a ſtripe of the ſame colour extends from the corners of the eyes to the noſtrils; the ſides are whitiſh, beautifully marked with long ſtripes of black, extending lengthways, which are hollow, and tawny in the middle, and ſprinkled with ſmall black ſpots: others, of the ſame ſhape and colour, extend from the

(A) Mr. Buffon says it is four feet long, but this appears to be a mistake.

neck towards the ſhoulder point; and the rump is marked in the ſame manner. The legs are whitiſh, and marked with ſmall black ſpots; the tail is marked with black ſpots near the baſe, and black lines towards the extremity. The colours of the female are in general fainter, though the markings are like the male.

The Ocelot is ſtrongly made, and very voracious; it is fearful of mankind, but preys on young Calves (A) and different kinds of game. It frequents mountainous places, where it lurks among the leaves of trees, extending itſelf along the branches, as if it were dead, till the Monkeys (B,) tempted by their natural inquiſitiveneſs, approach too near to examine it, and fall a ſacrifice to their raſh curioſity. It is afraid of Dogs, and flies to the woods when it is purſued by them Like the Tiger, it prefers the blood of animals to their fleſh, which it leaves untouched; great numbers, therefore, are deſtroyed, to ſatisfy its hunger.

The Ocelot is impatient of captivity: when under confinement, it is in perpetual motion, and nothing can tame the fierceneſs of its nature: it returns the careſſes of its keeper by ſavage growls, which ſufficiently indicate its vindictive ſpirit.

This animal inhabits Mexico, the neighbourhood of Carthagena, and Braſil.

(A) Dampier's Voy. ii. 62.

(B) Hernandez Mex. 514.

THE LYNX.

Generic Characters.

The ſame as the Ocelot.

Synonims.

Λυγξ, *Ælian.* lib. xiv. c. 6. *Oppian Cyneg*, iii. 84.
Chaus, *Plin.* lib. viii. c. 19. Lupus cervarius, c. 22.
Lupus cervarius, Lynx, Chaus, *Geſner Quad.* 677, 678.
Lynx sive Leuncia, *Caii Opuſc.* 50.
Lynx, Catus cervarius Anglicè, the Ounce, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 166.
Felis Lynx, *Linn. Syſt.* 62.
Warglo, Kattlo, *Faun. Suec.* No. 10, 11.
Catus Cervarius, *Briſſon Quad.* 199.
Rys, Ostrowidz, *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 222.
Lux, *Kramer Auſtr.* 311. *Ridinger Wilden Thiere*, 22.
Le Lynx, or Loup Cervier, *de Buffon*, ix. 231. *tab.* xxi.

THE Lynx is readily diſtinguiſhed from all other animals of the Cat kind by the length of its ears, which are tufted at the end with long black hairs: this is a character peculiar to theſe animals. The ſhortneſs of the tail, which does not exceed ſix inches in length, though the animal ſometimes meaſures four feet ſix inches from the end of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, is another mark of diſtinction. The extremity of the tail is black. The body of the Lynx is covered with long, ſoft hair, which is of an aſh-colour, tinged with red, and marked in ſome parts, particularly on the thighs, with duſky ſpots, which are more or leſs viſible in different individuals, and in ſome ſcarcely diſcernible. The throat and belly are white. The colour is ſubject to great variety, and the farther north this animal is bred, the fur is proportionably whiter, and the ſpots are more diſtinct. It becomes the more valuable on this account. The ſkin of the moſt elegant variety, which is called the Irbys, and is taken near the Lake Balckaſh, in Uſbec Tartary, ſells in that country for one pound ſterling. The ſkin of the male is more ſpotted than that of the female. The furs of theſe animals are much eſteemed for their warmth and ſoftneſs, and great numbers of them are imported from North America and the northern parts of Europe and Aſia.

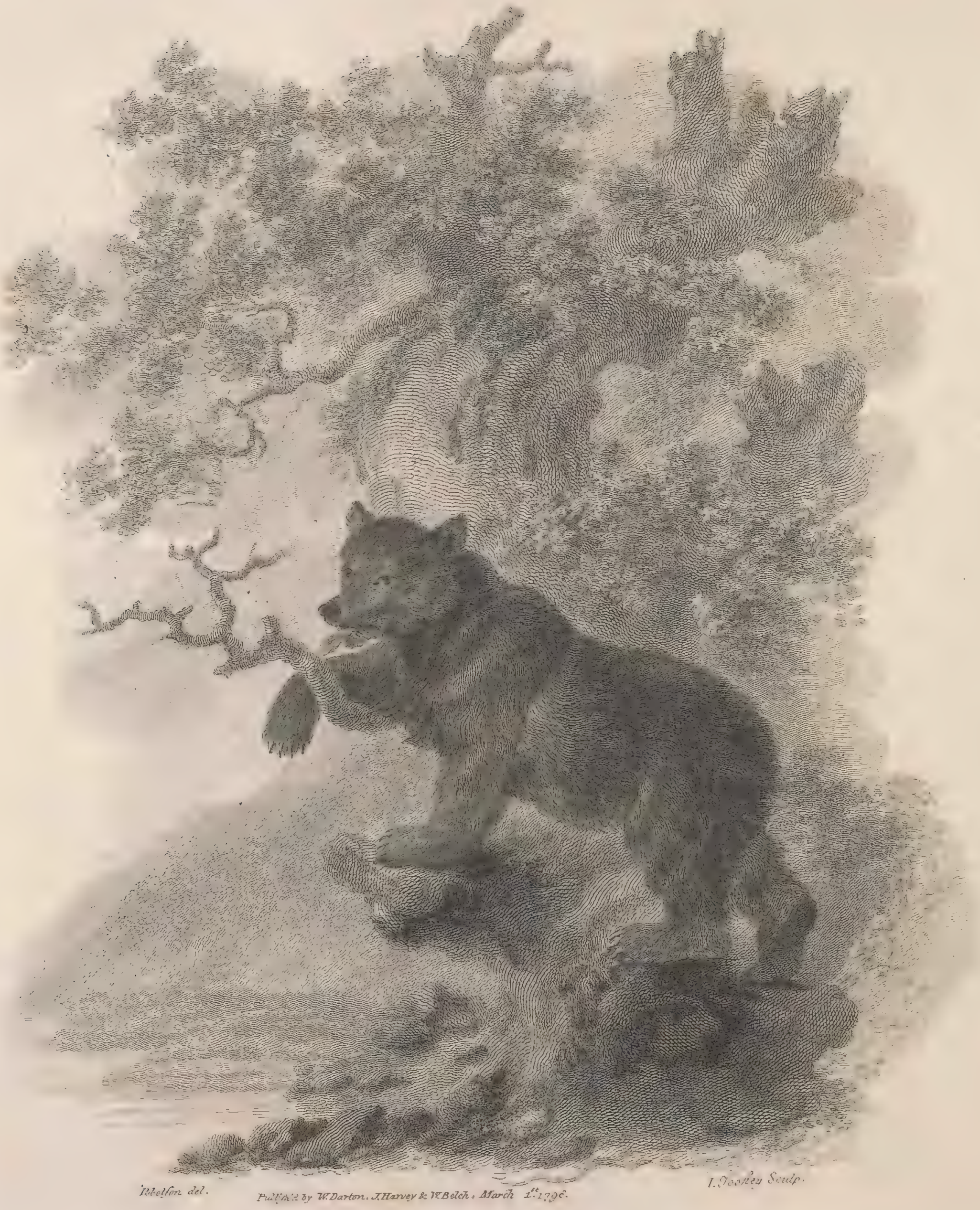
The aſpect of the Lynx is conſiderably leſs ſavage than that of the Panther or Ounce; the eyes are of a pale yellow, and ſurrounded by a circle of white hair; the hair under the chin is long and full; the legs and feet are very thick and ſtrong.

The Lynx brings forth two or three young ones at a litter: it is very long lived: it climbs trees in purſuit of its prey, which it follows to the extremity of the branches. It feeds on Weaſels, Ermines, and Squirrels, which are unable to eſcape from it. Like the Glutton, it lies concealed on the lower branches of a large tree, watching the approach of the Fallow Deer, Hare, and other animals, on which it darts, ſeizing them by the throat, when it ſucks their blood, and then leaving the carcaſe untouched, goes in ſearch of other game. It will not attack mankind. Its ſight is very quick and penetrating, and it diſtinguiſhes its prey at a great diſtance. It ſeldom eats more of a Goat or a Sheep than the liver, brain, and inteſtines; and, like the Wolf, will ſometimes dig under the threſhold of the door, to gain admiſſion into the ſheepfold.

When the Lynx is attacked by a Dog, it lies down on its back, ſtriking deſperately with all its claws, and often obliges its enemy to retire.

It howls ſo like the Wolf, that, when heard at a diſtance, it is eaſily miſtaken for that animal.

The Lynx inhabits the vaſt foreſts of the north of Europe, Aſia, and America; but it is not found in India, notwithſtanding the poets have harneſſed them to the chariot of Bacchus, when he conquered that country: it even prefers cold climates to thoſe which are temperate.



Ibbetſon del.

Publiſh'd by W. Darton, J. Harvey & W. Belch, March 1st 1796.

I. Tookey Sculp.

BROWN BEAR.

THE BROWN BEAR.

Generic Characters.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on each foot.
In walking, reſts on the hind feet, as far as the heel.

Synonims.

Ursus cauda abrupta, *Linn. Syſt.* 69.
Biorn, *Faun. Suec.* No. 19.
Αρϰτος, *Oppian Cyneg.* iii. 139.
Niedzwiedz, *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 225.
Bar, *Klein Quad.* 82.
L'Ours, *de Buffon,* viii. 248. *tab.* xxxi. xxxii.

NATURALISTS and travellers have differed very much in their accounts of this animal, ſo as, in many inſtances, even to have contradicted each other. This ſeems to ariſe from their not having properly diſtinguiſhed the different kinds of Bears, in conſequence of which, they have aſcribed to one the qualities of another. All agree, that the White or Polar Bear is a diſtinct ſpecies from both the Brown and Black Bear; but ſome (A) aſſert that the two latter are only varieties of the ſame ſpecies, whilſt others (B) contend that they are quite diſtinct, and differ from each other both in their inclinations and appetites. White land Bears are alſo found in Great Tartary, Muſcovy, Lithuania, and other northern countries; but as Bears are likewiſe found in the ſame places, whoſe colour is an intermixture of brown and white,

(A) Mr. Pennant, &c.

(B) Buffon, &c.

Mr. Buffon conſiders them as varieties of either the brown or black ſpecies. However the fact may be, the Brown Bear, which is the ſubject of the preſent account, is by far the moſt common, and is found of two ſizes, the one large, the other ſmall.

The large Brown Bear is generally about ſix feet in length; his head is long, his eyes ſmall, and his ears ſhort, in proportion to his ſize; his ſkin is hard and thickly covered with long coarſe hair, notwithſtanding all which, he poſſeſſes the ſenſes of ſeeing, hearing, and feeling, in high perfection: the internal ſurface of his noſe being very extenſive, it is probable that his ſmell is more exquiſite than that of any other animal: his limbs are ſtrong, thick, and clumſy; his feet large, and furniſhed with a ſhort heel bone, which makes part of the ſole of the foot; his tail is very ſhort, and hardly viſible. The Brown Bear is ſavage and ſolitary; he deſtroys cattle, and feeds even on carrion; his general food, however, is roots, fruits, potatoes, corn, and other vegetables. He is very fond of peas(A), "of which he will tear up great quantities, and, beating them out of the ſhells on ſome ſtone or hard ſpot of ground, eats the grain, and carries off the ſtraw." When he attacks an adverſary, he ſeldom makes uſe of his teeth, but ſtrikes very ſtrongly with his fore feet like a Cat, and, ſeizing his enemy between his paws, preſſes him againſt his breaſt with ſo much ſtrength, that he almoſt inſtantly ſqueezes his opponent to death. The voice of the Bear is a deep harſh murmur, which he heightens by grinding his teeth, when he is enraged. Highly iraſcible, and capriciouſly furious, he is never to be truſted, however gentle and placid towards his owner he may appear, being always treacherous and vindictive. Although his external appearance is clumſy and ſtupid, he is, notwithſtanding, ſufficiently docile, to be taught to dance in a rude and awkward manner, provided his education, for this purpoſe, commences when he is young, and that he is kept in continual reſtraint. It is impoſſible to tame an old Bear, or keep him in any degree of ſubjection; perverſe, ſavage, and uncontrollable in his nature, he never betrays any fear of danger, and obſtinately reſiſts every attempt to ſubdue his ferocity. He will not turn out

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(A) Pennant.

of his path at the ſight of a man, or even endeavour to ſhun him; but it is aſſerted, that he is ſo far ſurpriſed and confounded by a particular ſort of whiſtle, as to riſe upon his hind feet, which is the preciſe time to ſhoot and endeavour to kill him.

The Brown Bear inhabits the moſt dangerous precipices of unfrequented mountains; a cavern which has been hollowed by time, or the cavity of ſome old enormous tree, ſituate in the moſt gloomy and retired parts of the foreſt, are the places he fixes on for his den. To one of theſe he retires at the approach of winter, and there paſſes ſome weeks in gloomy ſolitude, without proviſions, and almoſt without motion. He does not, however, appear to be totally deprived of ſenſation, like the Bat and ſome other animals, but ſeems to ſubſiſt on the ſuperfluity of fat acquired before his retirement, and does not feel the calls of returning appetite, until that ſupply is exhauſted, and he is become lean; he then iſſues forth in ſearch of food, and nothing comes amiſs to him; he makes the beſt uſe of his time in the ſummer, to ſupply the loſs he has ſuſtained by his winter abſtinence, and by the beginning of autumn, he becomes ſo fat, as to be hardly able to walk; at this period the fat on his ſides and thighs is ſometimes ten inches thick. It has been ſaid that the male quits his winter retreat at the end of forty days, but that the female continues in it during four months, till ſhe has brought up her young. Mr. Buffon thinks this highly improbable, as the female, having young now to nouriſh with her milk, ſtands in much greater need of ſupply than the male; however this may be, it is certain that the females, after conception, retire into the moſt ſecret and ſolitary places, leſt the male ſhould devour the young, which they never fail to do, if they find them. It is affirmed, as matter of fact, that among the many hundreds (A) of Bears killed in America during winter, which is the breeding ſeaſon, ſcarcely one female is found, ſo impenetrable is their retreat during that period. (B) The female goes with young from ſix to ſeven months, and, previous to her confinement, provides

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(A) Out of five hundred Bears that were killed in one winter, in two counties of Virginia, only two females were found, and thoſe were not pregnant. *Lawſon* 117, quoted by Pennant.

(B) Buffon's Supplement.

a warm bed of hay and moſs at the bottom of her den. She generally produces one, two, or three, at a litter, but never more. When the young ones are firſt whelped, they are yellow, with a white mark round the neck, and do not look much like Bears; their eyes are cloſed during four weeks; at firſt they are about eight inches long, and at the end of three months fourteen or fifteen; at that age they appear almoſt round, and their ſnout is very ſharp and pointed. They do not acquire much ſtrength, till they are full grown, before which time they have loſt their white hair, which gradually decreaſes, and the yellow is changed into brown. The male and female always live in ſeparate dens, and ſometimes fight furiouſly when they meet, growling horribly at each other.

The Bear is extravagantly fond of honey, in ſearch of which he will climb hollow decayed trees, which he aſcends and deſcends with ſurpriſing agility.

This animal is not confined to any particular country, but is found in almoſt all the high mountains, foreſts, and deſerts of the earth.

The fleſh of the Bear is with ſome held in high eſtimation, particularly the hinder legs made into hams, and the feet, which are eſteemed great delicacies. The ſkin is the moſt valuable of all coarſe furs; the fat is much uſed, and yields a great quantity of oil, which, if properly prepared, is equal in goodneſs to the beſt oil olive. The method made uſe of to ſeparate and prepare it, is thus deſcribed by Du Pratz. "The fleſh and fat are boiled together, and then the oil is ſeparated; this done, it is purified by throwing into it, while hot, a very large quantity of ſalt and water; a thick ſmoke ariſes, which carries off the diſagreeable ſmell of the fat; when the ſmoke is evaporated, they pour the greeſe, while it is ſtill warm, into a pot, where it is left to ſettle during eight or ten days, at the expiration of which a clear oil is found ſwimming at the top; this is taken off with ladles, and is perfectly ſweet and fine. Under it remains a lard, as white as Hogs-lard, but rather ſofter, which has neither a diſagreeable ſmell nor taſte." This account is confirmed by Mr. Dumont, who ſays, that the ſavages of Louiſiana carry on a conſiderable trade with the French in this article; that the oil never looſes its fluidity, except in the time of intenſe froſts, when it becomes clotted, is of a dazzling whiteneſs, and is then eaten on bread, inſtead of butter. Bears are excellent ſwimmers, while they retain their fat, and croſs the largeſt rivers with perfect eaſe.

The chaſe of the Bear is attended with little or no danger, if properly conducted; and, as it is highly lucrative, when ſucceſsful, it is much practiſed in thoſe parts where the animal is found. Other means are likewiſe uſed to take them. In Sweden, Norway, and Poland, they mix ſpirits with honey, and leave this compoſition in the Bear's way; the animal drinks eagerly of it, and, becoming intoxicated, is eaſily ſubdued. In Canada and Louiſiana, where the Black Bears uſually reſide in the decayed parts of old trees thirty or forty feet high, they kindle a fire at the bottom of the tree, by the ſmoke of which the family, conſiſting generally of a female and her cubs, are preſently diſturbed; the mother deſcends firſt, and is killed before ſhe reaches the ground; the cubs ſoon follow, and are eaſily ſecured, by throwing a nooſe round their necks; they are then all carried home, the young ones are either preſerved and brought up, or killed for the ſake of their ſkin and fleſh, which is very delicate and good.

In the northern parts of Siberia and Kamtſchatka(A), the Bears are neither large nor fierce; they are in general quiet and inoffenſive, unleſs they happen to find one of the natives aſleep, when they often tear the ſcalp from the back part of their heads, and ſometimes lacerate the fleſhy parts, but never eat them. People are frequently met with, who have experienced this uncivil treatment, and thoſe who have been thus wounded are called Dranki. Although the Bears are ſo numerous in Kamtſchatka, as to cover the fields in ſummer like cattle, they never hurt the women, but accompany them like tame animals, when they go to gather berries, which indeed the Bears ſometimes rob them of, but do them no other harm. They are very fond of fiſh, and deſcend from the hills to the proper places for catching them, which are the mouths of large rivers, into which the fiſh enter in vaſt ſhoals at certain ſeaſons of the year. At firſt, the profuſion is ſo great, that they only eat and ſuck the bones of the heads, and will not meddle with the bodies; but, as they become ſcarcer, they are glad to return to what they

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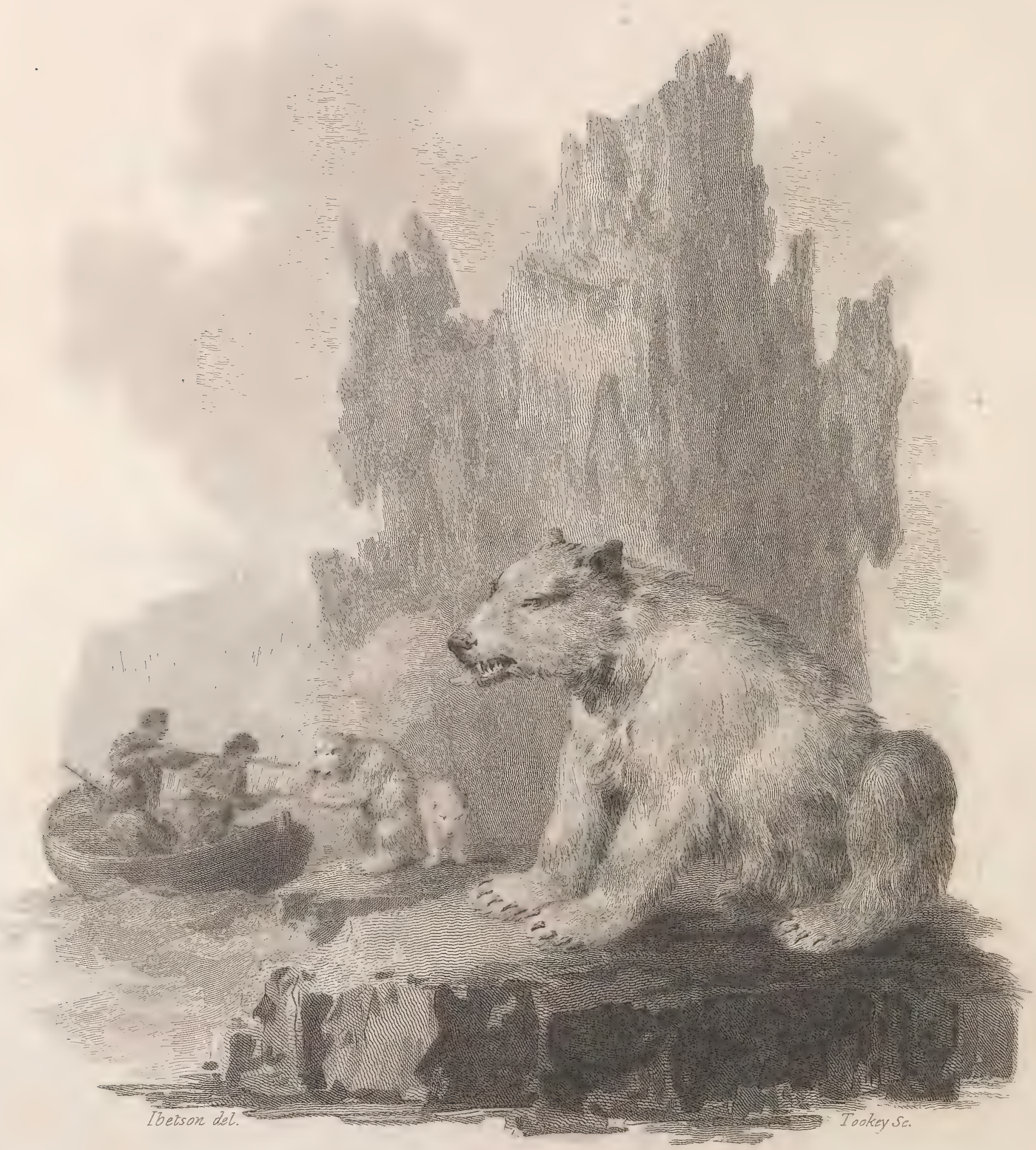
(A) The following particulars are extracted from the Hiſtory of Kamtſchatka, tranſlated by Dr. Greive.

refuſed in the time of plenty. They often ſteal fiſh from the Coſſacks, although a woman is left to watch them, but they never offer her any violence.

Many devices, for killing Bears, were practiſed by the inhabitants of Kamtſchatka, before they knew the uſe of firearms. The following are ingenious, and, we truſt, will prove entertaining. Having found the Bear's habitation, they cut ſeveral billets of wood, with which they blocked up the entrance of the den; the Bear, to prevent his being ſhut up, never failed to draw theſe in. More billets were then introduced in the ſame place, and theſe, in their turn, were drawn in by the Bear, till, at length, by frequent repetition of this procedure, he was ſo ſtraitened in his den, that he could ſcarcely turn himſelf; the hunters then dug down from above, and diſpatched him with their ſpears. The Koreki uſe other methods to catch the Bear: for this purpoſe, they ſingle out a tree which is crooked above, to which they faſten a nooſe, and place a proper bait behind it; which the animal endeavouring to ſeize, is held faſt by the head or paw. Heavy logs of wood are ſometimes placed in ſuch ſituations, as to fall with the ſlighteſt touch, and cruſh the Bear, as he paſſes under them. Sometimes they place a board, with many iron hooks driven into it, in the Bear's track, and near this board they place ſomething which will eaſily fall down, in ſuch a ſituation that the Bear muſt touch it as he paſſes by; terrified by its fall, the Bear runs with great force on the board, and, finding one paw wounded and detained by the hooks, he endeavours to liberate himſelf, by ſtriking the board with the other; but, inſtead of ſucceeding in his attempt, this paw likewiſe ſoon becomes entangled by the hooks, and increaſes his difficulties. In this ſtate of embarraſſment, he raiſes himſelf up on his hind legs, which cauſes the board to riſe before his eyes, and perplexes him in ſuch a manner, that he preſently becomes furious, and beats himſelf to death. The people, who live about the rivers Lena and Hinu, make uſe of a very ſingular method to catch Bears. A nooſe is faſtened to the end of a large log of wood, which they place in the Bear's track, or at the entrance into his den; when the Bear finds himſelf entangled in the nooſe, and that the log of wood, which is faſtened to it, interrupts his walking, he takes it up, and carries it to ſome precipice, from whence he throws it down with great violence, and, of courſe, falling with it, is terribly bruiſed. This, however, does not prevent him from repeating the practice, till it ends in his own deſtruction.

Baiting the Bear was formerly a favourite diverſion in England, and was thought not unworthy the attention of people of the firſt faſhion, and even the ſovereign was ſometimes ſeen at the Bear Garden. But ſuch cruel ſports have now given way to entertainments of a milder nature. The Bear, however, ſtill affords a favourite amuſement to children, for which purpoſe he is led about by the Savoyards, ſecured by a chain faſtened to his noſe, and taught to dance in his awkward manner, and perform other diverting actions, at his keeper's command.



Ibetson del. Tookey Sc.

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POLAR BEAR.

THE POLAR BEAR.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on each foot.
In walking, reſts on the hind feet, as far as the heel.

SYNONIMS.

WHITE BEAR, *Martin's Spitz.* 100. *Ellis's Voy.* 41.
URSUS ALBUS, *Klein Quad.* 82.
L'OURS BLANC, *de Buffon,* XV. 128. *Briſſon Quad.* 188.

THE Polar Bear, in ſize and ſtrength, ſurpaſſes moſt other beaſts of prey; it is ſometimes found from twelve to thirteen feet in length, from the extremity of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail; its head and neck are long; its ears round and ſhort; the termination of its noſe is black; its jaws are furniſhed with very ſharp and ſtrong teeth, of an extraordinary ſize; its hair, which is of a yellowiſh white, is long and ſoft; and its limbs are remarkably large and ſtrong.

When the ſailors land on the unfrequented ſhores, bordering on the icy mountains of Spitzbergen and Greenland, the White Bears come down, look at them with an awkward kind of curioſity, and ſeem in doubt how to act; their hunger, however, ſoon determines them to make an attack, in which, if they meet with any reſiſtance, or happen to be ſhot at or wounded, their courage inſtantly forſakes them, and they endeavour to make their eſcape; but, finding that impracticable, they become deſperate by neceſſity, and make a fierce defence, till they are overpowered.

Theſe animals feed on ſeals, fiſh, and the carcaſes of whales, which naturally give their fleſh a ſtrong, fiſhy flavour; notwithſtanding which, Captain Cook ſays, it is infinitely ſuperior to that of the Sea-Horſe, which is often eaten by our ſailors, in preference to their ſalted proviſions. The fat is melted for train oil: the liver is very unwholeſome: three of Barentz's ſailors became dangerouſly ill, after eating ſome of it boiled (A). They are very fond of dead human bodies, which they will ſcratch out of the ground, after they have been buried, and devour them greedily; they delight in human blood, and will attack companies of armed men, and even ſwim towards ſmall veſſels at ſea, and attempt to board them; they likewiſe eat birds and their eggs. Their moſt formidable enemy is the Morſe, with which they have terrible engagements, and are generally overpowered by the vaſt teeth of their adverſary.

In the inhoſpitable regions about the north pole, where there is ſuch a ſcarcity of every other terreſtrial animal, the White Bears are found in great abundance; as their principal food is fiſh, they ſeldom remove very far from the ſhore; when proviſions run ſhort, they will ſometimes venture into the deep, in ſearch of ſeals, which they devour, if they can catch them.

The White Bear is often ſeen on ice-floats, ſeveral leagues from the land; in this manner, they are tranſported to the ſhores of Iceland, where they meet with a rough reception from the natives, who generally quickly deſtroy them. For this purpoſe, they make uſe of ſpears; and although a Bear will turn upon his purſuer, yet they have plenty of time to diſpatch him, by throwing a glove in his way, which never fails to excite his attention ſo much, that he will not ſtir, till he has turned every finger of it inſide out; which takes him ſome time to execute, as he is not very dexterous with his paws, and gives his purſuer an opportunity of killing him, or making his eſcape. The Bear, however, is ſeldom ſuffered to get away, as government gives a reward, of ten dollars, for every Bear that is killed, and purchaſes the hide of the perſon who kills him (B). In theſe excurſions, it ſometimes happens, that they meet with a

(A) Pennant.

(B) Horrebow's Iceland.

Greenlander and his wife paddling out at ſea in their canoe, who coming too near an ice-float, are ſurpriſed by an unexpected viſit from a White Bear, which jumps into their boat, and if he does not overſet it, ſets himſelf down very quietly as a paſſenger, till the Greenlander, not very fond of his new gueſt, rows him on ſhore; and what is very remarkable, the Bear, as if in return for the good office, ſeldom offers any violence to either of them. They prowl about upon the flakes of ice, in ſearch of ſeals and dead whales, and when urged by hunger, they will even attack the Sea-Lion, though they often fall a ſacrifice to their temerity, and are obliged to ſubmit to the ſuperior ſtrength of their antagoniſt. They ſwim from one piece of ice to another, and, if attacked, will defend themſelves againſt a boat full of men(A).

The affection ſubſiſting between the White Bear and its young is ſo very remarkable, that they will rather die than forſake each other. Hiſtory furniſhes us with ſeveral extraordinary inſtances, where the maternal love, diſplayed by this animal, has been equally ſtriking and affecting. They generally produce two young ones at a time.

An animal of this ſpecies was publicly exhibited in England a few years ſince. It appeared to be very furious, roared tremendouſly, and ſeemed always agitated and uneaſy, except when it was kept cool, by having large quantities of water thrown over it.

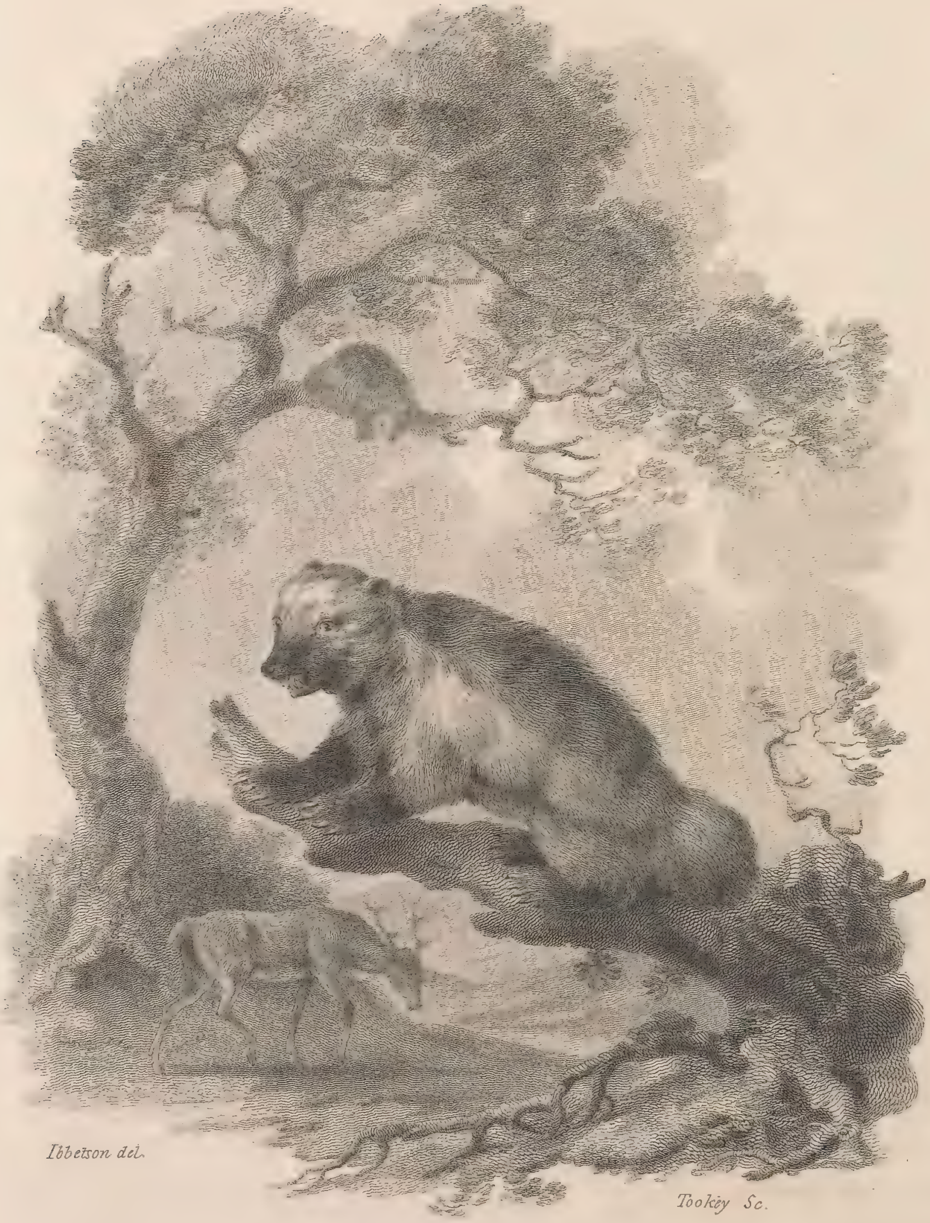
There is now one of them alive in the exhibition of wild animals at Exeter 'Change, of which the annexed plate is a faithful portrait. The conduct of this individual agrees perfectly with what has been related.

The Polar Bear inhabits the ſhores of Hudſon's Bay, Greenland, Spitzbergen, and Nova Zembla, and is found no where elſe, unleſs when it is tranſported involuntarily on floating iſlands of ice.

During the depth of winter, theſe animals retreat under the ſnow, in which they form deep dens, ſupported by pillars of the ſame(B).

(A) Crantz's Greenland.

(B) Egede 60, quoted by Pennant.



Ibbetson del. *Tookey Sc.*

Publiſhed by W.Darton, J.Harvey, & W.Belch, Oct.r 18th 1797.

WOLVERENE.

THE WOLVERENE.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on each foot.
In walking, reſts on the hind feet, as far as the heel.

SYNONIMS.

URSUS LUSCUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 71.
URSUS, *Freti Hudſonis, Briſſon Quad.* 188.
QUICKHATCH, *Cateſby's Carol.* App. xxx.
QUICKHATCH, or WOLVERENE, *Ellis's Hudſon's Bay*, 42.
Edwards, 103.
CARCAJOU, or QUICKHATCH, *Dobb's Hudſon's Bay*, 40.
GLUTTON, *Grieve's Kamtſchatka*, 99.
GULO, *Olaii Mag. gen. Sep.* 138.
GULO, VIELFRASS, *Geſner Quad.* 554. *Klein Quad.* 83.
ROFOMAK, *Rzaczinſky Polon.* 218.
JERF, FIELDFROSS, *Strom. Sondmor.* 152. *Pontop. Norw.* 11. 22.
MUSTELA GULA, *Linn. Syſt.* 67.
JARF, FILFROSS, *Faun. Suec.* No. 14.
JŒRVEN, *Gunner's Act. Nedros.* 111. 143. *tab.* iii.
LE GLUTTON, *Buffon*, xiii. 278.

THE Wolverene is the moſt beautiful animal of the Bear kind. The extraordinary luſtre of its hair, which reflects the light like the richeſt ſilk damaſk, added to the pleaſing variety of its colours, renders its fur very valuable.

THE WOLVERENE.

This animal is about twenty-eight inches, from the noſe to the tail, which is ſeven inches long. The viſage is ſharp-pointed, and black, as far as the eyebrows; the eyes are ſmall and black; the ears ſhort, round, and almoſt hid in the fur: the hairs of the head, back, and belly, are reddiſh, tipped with black, which cauſes thoſe parts at firſt ſight to appear quite black: the ſides are adorned with a yellowiſh-brown band, which is continued quite over the hind part of the back, above the tail; there is a white mark on the throat, and a creſcent of the ſame colour on the breaſt. The legs are very ſtrong, thick, and ſhort; the toes are not very deeply divided; they are armed with ſtrong and ſharp claws, which are white at the ends; the general colour of the legs and feet is a deep black; but the paws of ſome individuals, particularly thoſe found in Kamtſchatka and the neighbouring iſlands, are white. The bottoms of the feet are covered very thickly with hair. In walking, it reſts on the foot, as far as the firſt joint of the leg, like the Bear: the hair on the tail is of the ſame colour as the back; but is ſo coarſe and long, as to make that part appear twice its real length.

The voracious appetite of the Wolverene, cauſes it to live in a ſtate of continual rapine and depredation: the Horſe, the Elk, the Stag, and the Rein-Deer are frequently the victims of its ferocity, particularly the latter: it is, notwithſtanding, ſo ſlow in its motions, that almoſt every quadruped would eſcape from it, did it not poſſeſs a degree of cunning and ſagacity which amply compenſates for this defect. Having found a place uſually frequented by the Rein-Deer, they climb up into a tree, carrying with them ſome of the moſs, which is the favourite food of that animal. This they let fall on the ground, exactly under the branch on which they have fixed themſelves, and then patiently wait till the unſuſpecting Deer comes to eat his beloved moſs; when they inſtantly dart down on his back with unerring aim; and fixing themſelves between the horns of the Deer, they tear out his eyes, and torture the poor animal to ſuch a degree, that, to put an end to his torment, or, if poſſible, to free himſelf from the cauſe of it, by deſtroying his enemy, he ſtrikes his head with great violence againſt the trees, which generally kills him. Having thus brought his prey to the ground, the

Wolverene divides its fleſh carefully, and hides it in the earth, to preſerve it from being eaten by any other creature; and never eats a bellyful before he has done this (A).

Though the Wolverene, in his native wilds, exhibits ſuch a degree of fierceneſs and barbarity, as to become a terror to the Wolf and the Bear; in a ſtate of confinement, he diſcovers a conſiderable ſhare of gentleneſs and docility. M. Buffon had one in his poſſeſſion, which, he ſays, was tolerably gentle in his nature; but in a great meaſure retained its voracity, and would eat above four pounds of raw fleſh daily, devouring it ſo greedily, that it ſcarcely appeared to chew it.

There is an animal of this ſpecies, now in the poſſeſſion of the Hudſon's Bay Company, at their houſe in Fenchurch Street, London, from which, by permiſſion, the annexed portrait was taken, which agrees with Buffon's experience with regard to gentleneſs of nature; but, reſpecting appetite, ſeems eſſentially different; his keeper aſſerting, that he is ſatisfied with leſs than will ſerve an ordinary Maſtiff, though the animal is remarkably healthful and vigorous.

Without diſſenting from the experience of ſo great a naturaliſt as Buffon, we cannot reconcile this ſeeming contradiction any other way than by analogy; for, as in the human kind, there are great diverſities of conſtitution and appetite; the brute creation, agreeably to the conformation of their parts, muſt experience the ſame variety.

Dr. Grieve ſays, they are eaſily tamed, and capable of being taught ſeveral tricks; but perhaps they are not exactly alike in all countries.

The natives of Kamtſchatka hold the fur of this animal in ſuch high eſtimation, that when they wiſh to deſcribe a man moſt richly attired, they ſay, he is clothed in the fur of the Glutton (B). The women adorn their hair with the white paws of this animal, which they conſider as highly ornamental. It appears, however, that they kill but few of them, as they import ſome of them from Jakutſki at a very high price. They ſet the higheſt value on the whiteſt and yelloweſt furs, although theſe are reckoned inferior

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(A) Grieve's Kamtschatka.

(B) Grieve.

every where elſe. They carry their ideas of the value of theſe furs even to a degree of enthuſiaſm, and ſay, that the garments worn by the heavenly beings are made of it; nor can they make their wives or miſtreſſes a greater preſent than one of theſe ſkins, which was formerly ſold for thirty, and even ſixty rubles (A); and for the two paws, which the women wear in their hair, they frequently give one, and ſometimes even two, Sea-Beavers.

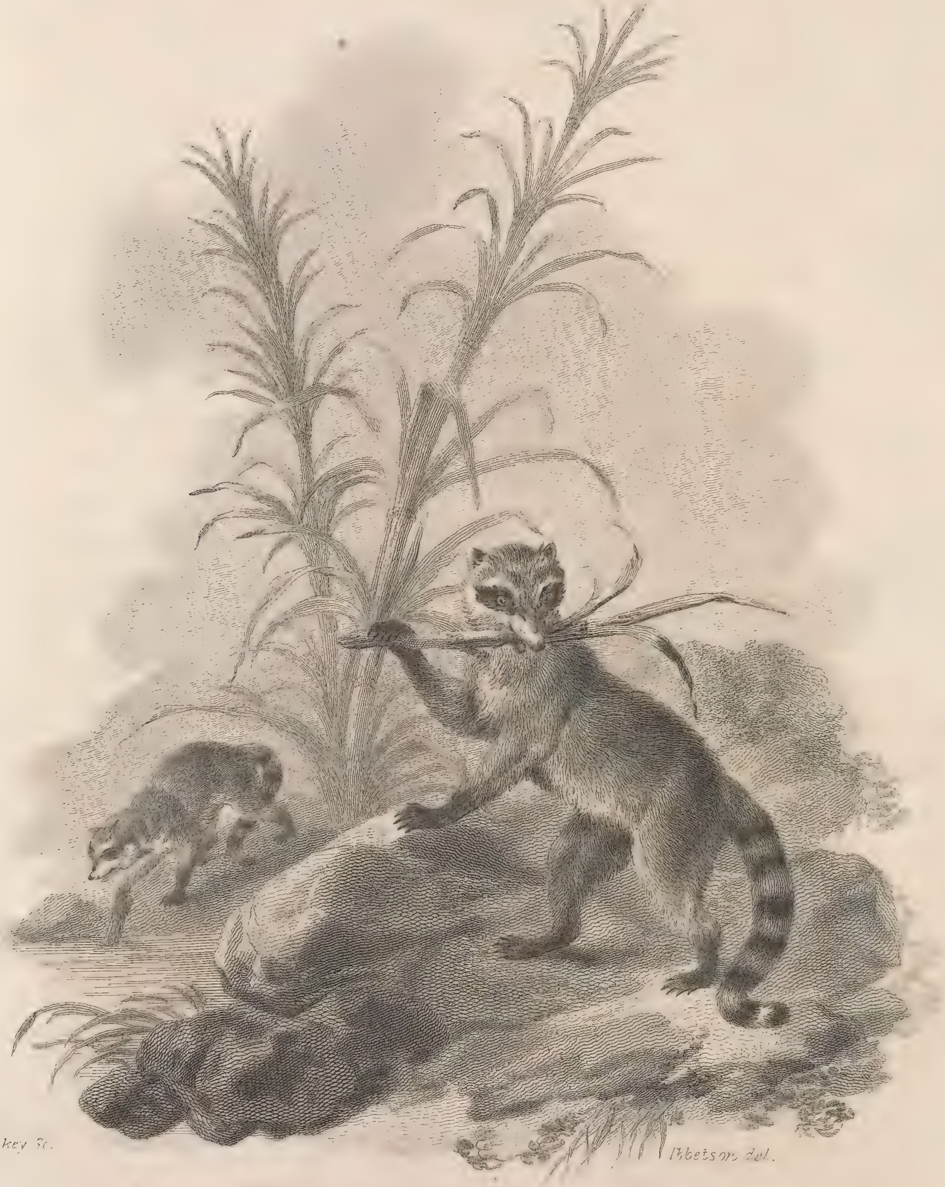
Linnæus, in his Syſtema Naturæ, p. 67, edit. 13, deſcribes an animal, which he calls Muſtela Gula, and ſays it poſſeſſes moſt of the properties of the Wolverene. As he candidly confeſſes that he has never had an opportunity of examining the living animal, and is, therefore, at a loſs where to claſs it, it is probable that they are both the ſame.

The Wolverene often examines the ſnares and traps which are ſet by the hunters for other animals, and ſteals the Sables, &c. from them. It defends itſelf ſtrongly, when attacked, and will tear the ſtock from a gun with its teeth, or break a trap in pieces (B). In America it watches and ſurpriſes the Beavers, as they are coming out of their houſes; and ſometimes even breaks into their habitations, and devours them; whence it is there called the Beaver-Eater.

This animal is found in Canada, Hudſon's Bay, and in all the countries bordering on the Northern Ocean, where it is called by the different names of Wolverene, Quickhatch, Carcajou, and Glutton.

(A) The average value of the ruble is about four shillings sterling.

(B) Pennant.



Tookey Sc.

Ibbetson del.

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RACOON.

THE RACCOON.

Generic Characters.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on each foot.
In walking, reſts on the hind feet, as far as the heel.

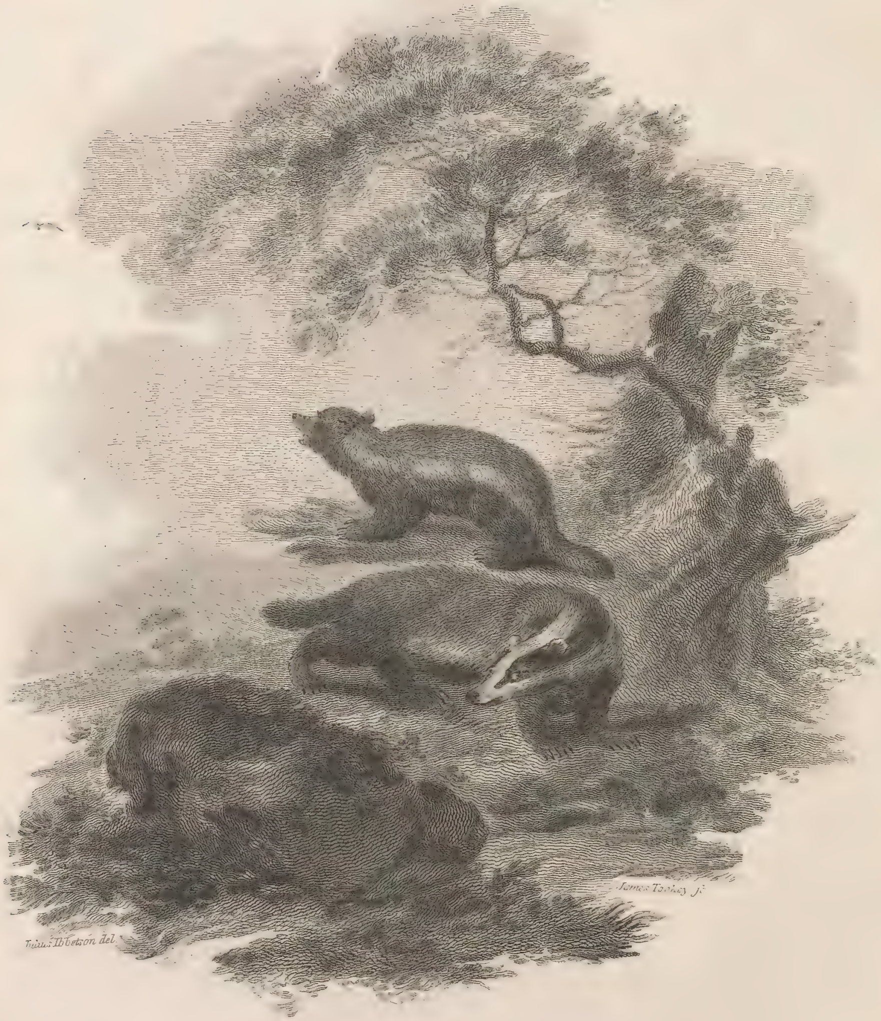
Synonims.

Ursus Lotor, *Linn. Syſt.* 70.
Coati, *Worm. Mus.* 319. *Briſſon Quad.* 189.
Raccoon, *Cateſby's Carol.* App. xxix.
Mapach, *Fernandez Nov: Hiſp.* 1.
Vulpi affinis Americana, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 179.
Le Raton, *de Buffon*, vii. 337. *tab.* xliii.

THE Raccoon, in ſize, nearly approaches the Badger; its head reſembles that of a Fox, excepting the noſe, which is ſharper, and not quite ſo long; the eyes, which are encircled with a broad patch of black, are large and yellow; the teeth ſimilar to thoſe of a Dog; the tail, which equals the length of the body, is thick, tapers towards the point, and is beautifully and regularly marked with alternate rings of black and white; its feet and toes are black; the fore feet are much ſhorter than the hinder, and each is armed with five ſharp claws, which, in conjunction with the teeth, enable the animal to make a vigorous reſiſtance if attacked. Its general colour is a greyiſh black. Like the Squirrel, it ſits on end while eating, and holds its food in its fore paws. Though this quadruped will eat its proviſions dry, it prefers dipping them in water, as if with a deſign to waſh them; and has one peculiarity, which few other animals poſſeſs: that is, in drinking both by lapping and ſuction. Whatever is preſented, it eats; and if left at large, carefully examines every corner, and ſeems to feaſt indiſcriminately on whatever it finds; whether fleſh, raw or boiled, eggs, fruit, corn, inſects, ſnails, or worms, all ſeem equally acceptable to its general appetite. When inhabiting places near the ſea, it ſhews a great predilection for oyſters, which it opens with much addreſs, by placing them under its hinder paws, and ſearching with the fore feet for the weakeſt part, where it fixes its claws, forces the ſhells aſunder, and devours every morſel of the fiſh. The whole of this operation is performed without once looking at the oyſter. Among other partialities, it is paſſionately fond of things that are ſweet, and ſtrong liquors, of which it will drink till completely intoxicated. Poſſeſſed of the ſubtilty of the Fox, it ſpreads, like him, deſtruction among the poultry; nevertheleſs, it is good-natured and ſportive, always in motion, very inquiſitive, and examines every thing with its paws. In ſhort, the Raccoon is an active and nimble animal, and, although it bounds in an oblique direction, yet it runs with great ſwiftneſs; climbs trees with much activity; runs on their trunks as rapidly as on plain ground; and plays at the extremity of the branches with the greateſt ſecurity and eaſe.

Theſe animals inhabit the ſouthern parts of America, and are very numerous on the Iſland of Jamaica, where they are very deſtructive to the ſugar canes; and, though various means are uſed to extirpate them, they breed ſo faſt, that they have hitherto been found ineffectual.

The fur of the Raccoon is held in eſtimation next to that of the Beaver, for the fabrication of hats.



Julius Ibbetson del.

James Tookey sc

Publish'd by W Darton J Harvey & W Belch London. August 6th 1806

RATEL

&

BADGER

THE RATEL.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two obtuſe teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp; body ſlender.
Five toes before, five behind.

SYNONIMS.

FIZZLER, *Pennant Syn. Quad.* 234.
STINK-BINGSEM, *Kolben Cape*, ii. 133.
STINKBINKS, *Schreber Mammal.* p. 450. *tab.* 125.
BLEREAU-PUANT, *Voy. de la Caille*, 182.

THE Ratel, according to Dr. Sparrman, is about forty inches in length, from the extremity of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is about twelve inches long. The noſe is ſhort and pointed: it has no external ears, but only a trifling border, which ſurrounds a large aperture, in which the organs of hearing are placed. The top of the head is of a whitiſh grey, which colour extends the whole length of the back, and half way down each ſide: it is laterally bounded by a narrow, whitiſh ſtripe, which extends from behind the ear to the end of the tail; the extremity of the tail is of a browniſh black, the reſt of that part is of the ſame colour as the back; the lower parts of the ſides, the belly, legs, and feet, are nearly black: the toes on the fore feet are furniſhed with claws, an inch and a half long; thoſe on the hinder feet are more than three quarters of an inch: theſe claws have a ſharp edge, which is double half way on the fore part of it, or rather hollowed with a deep furrow. This conformation, added to the extraordinary length of the claws on the fore feet, is well adapted to the manner in which it obtains its food, which is honey. The Ratel is endowed with a ſurpriſing faculty of diſcovering the ſecret retreats where the Bees hide this delicious viand. This inveſtigation the Ratel uſually undertakes about ſunſet, at which time it watches the motions of theſe induſtrious inſects with great attention, holding one of its paws before its eyes, in order to modify the rays of the ſun, ſo as to render them inoffenſive to the organs of ſight, and that it may at the ſame time have a diſtinct view of the object of its purſuit. Having thus well remarked their route, it carefully follows the ſame courſe. In theſe reſearches, it is often aſſiſted by a bird, which the natives call the Honey-guide, (Cuculus Indicator,) which is equally fond both of honey and of the larvæ of Bees. This bird, when in queſt of its favourite food, frequently ſends forth a grating cry, reſembling the ſound of the monoſyllables *cherr, cherr, cherr,* at the ſame time gradually approaching the place where the Bees have depoſited their treaſure. The Ratel carefully and inſtinctively attends to this call, which it follows till it arrives at the object of its purſuit, when it plunders the neſt, always leaving a ſufficient quantity, as a reward to its faithful conductor. Thus theſe two animals hunt, by a ſort of inſtinctive conſent, till they have obtained the common object of their deſires, which the Cuckoo could not eaſily procure without the aſſiſtance of the Ratel, to dig it out of the receſſes in which it is concealed; nor could the Ratel, on the other hand, ſo readily diſcover theſe receſſes without the aſſiſtance of the Cuckoo, to point out their ſituation.

The conformation of the Ratel is particularly well adapted to its manner of living: the long claws, with which the toes of the fore feet are furniſhed, are of ſingular ſervice to the animal, in digging into the hollows of the earth; and the toughneſs, thickneſs, and looſeneſs of its ſkin effectually defend it from the vindictive ſtings of the vineyard Bees. This ſtructure of the ſkin is likewiſe a great ſource of defence, to the animal, againſt all other attacks; for, like the Badger's, it is ſo looſely attached to the body, that, when it is ſeized by a Dog, or any other creature, it gives way, and enables the Ratel to turn round and bite its enemy; which it often does with ſo much effect, as to oblige it to deſiſt from the attack. Dr. Sparrman obſerves, that “ it is a remarkable circumſtance, that ſuch a number of Hounds as, collectively, are able to tear a Lion, of a moderate ſize, in pieces, are frequently forced to leave the Ratel, only dead to appearance; and that on the fur of one, which had been worried by a number of Hounds, there was ſcarcely the mark of a bite to be ſeen.”

The ſame gentleman likewiſe remarks, that the wild Bees of Africa uſually build their neſts in the holes which have been made in the ground by the Hyſtrix Jerbua Capenſis, Sus Æthiopicus, and other animals, as trees are ſeldom to be met with ſufficiently excavated for their purpoſe; and that thoſe Bees, which build their neſts in trees, are perfectly ſecure from the attacks of the Ratel.

This animal inhabits the interior parts of the country, behind the Cape of Good Hope, where it is pretty common.

THE BADGER.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.

Five toes on each foot; the claws on the fore-feet very ſtraight and long.

A tranſverſe orifice between the tail and the anus.

SYNONIMS.

MELES, *Plin. Hiſt. Nat.* lib. viii. c. 38. *Geſner Quad.* 327. *Briſſon Quad.* 183.

MELES, SIVE TAXUS *Raii Syn. Quad.* 185.

TAXUS, *Aldrovand. digit.* 264. *Jonſt. Quad.* t. 64.

URSUS MELES, *Linn. Syſt. Nat.* 70.

GRAF-SUIN, *Lin. Faun. Suec.* No. 20.

MELES, TAXUS, TASSUS, BLERELLUS, JAZWIEC, BORSUK, *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 233.

DACHS, *Kramer Auſtr.* 313.

COATI CAUDA BREVI, COATI GRISEUS, TAXUS, MELES, TAX, *Klein Quad.* 73.

COMMON BADGER, *Pennant Syn. Quad.* 142.

LE BLAIREAU, OU TAISON, *de Buffon,* viii. 104. *tab.* vii.

PERHAPS no animal has been more defamed, by vulgar prejudices, than the Badger. Harmleſs and inoffenſive in its nature, it is accuſed of ferocity, merely becauſe it is furniſhed with formidable weapons of offence, and has ſufficient ſtrength to uſe them; of which, however, it avails itſelf only for its convenience and ſupport, unleſs when attacked by its enemies, at which time it defends itſelf with great fierceneſs and effect. It is as wrongfully charged with killing Rabbits, and even Lambs; for which ſcandalous aſperſions there ſeems to be no other foundation, than the ſimilitude between the formation of its teeth and thoſe of carniverous animals. A uſeful leſſon may be learned from hence, by thoſe who are but too prone to aſperſe the characters of their neighbours: they ſhould be well aſſured of the authenticity of ſlanderous reports, before they venture to ſpread them abroad; and, even then, it is generally much better to conceal them, or at leaſt only to admoniſh their neighbours privately.

The Badger is in general rather more than two feet in length, from the extremity of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is ſix inches long.

The hair on the body is long, coarſe, and briſtly: each hair is of three colours; the bottom, next the root, is of a dirty yellowiſh white, the middle is black, and the extremity grey: hence aroſe the old proverb, "as grey as a badger." The general colour of the head is white, except a black pyramidal line, which begins between the noſe and eyes, and extends beyond the ears; the throat, breaſt, belly, and legs are black; the eyes are ſmall, the ears round, and the neck ſhort and thick. Under the tail is a gland, from which exudes a white ſubſtance, of a fœtid ſmell. The toes on the fore-feet are furniſhed with claws, which are remarkably long and ſtrong, and well adapted to the purpoſe of digging in the ground. This animal, in walking, treads on its whole heel, like the Bear, which, added to the extraordinary length of the hair on the body, gives its legs the appearance of being ſo ſhort, that the body ſeems almoſt to touch the ground.

The Badger is a ſtupid, ſolitary animal; it carefully ſhuns the vicinity of man, and lives retired in a deep ſubterraneous hole, which it digs with great aſſiduity and addreſs, throwing out the looſe earth behind as it advances. It is an idle, indolent animal, and ſleeps much, confining itſelf to its hole during the whole day, and feeding only in the night, when it ſallies forth in ſearch of roots, fruits, graſs, inſects, and frogs. During theſe nocturnal excurſions, the Fox, which is not ſo expert at digging in the earth, cunningly takes poſſeſſion of the Badger's empty den, and, ſome ſay, forces the true owner from its habitation, by leaving offenſive diſcharges at the mouth of it.

Nature, having denied the Badger that ſpeed which is neceſſary to ſecure its eſcape from its enemies, has kindly compenſated for that defect, by furniſhing it with ſuch weapons of offence, that very few creatures will hazard the attacking it. When cloſely purſued, it ſoon comes to bay, and, taking the advantage of ſome corner, riſes up on its hinder legs and combats with deſperate reſolution. On this account it is often baited with Dogs properly trained for this purpoſe ; but this inhuman diverſion is uſually confined to the indolent and vicious, who take delight in the ſavage pleaſure of ſeeing a poor innocent animal ſurrounded by its enemies, and, although overcharged by numbers, defending itſelf from their combined attacks with wonderful activity and effect. It is ſo rapid in its motions, that the dogs are often deſperately wounded on the firſt aſſault, and compelled to give up the conteſt. The looſeneſs of the Badger's ſkin enables it to turn itſelf eaſily round when ſeized, and gives it an opportunity of wounding its enemies in their moſt tender parts; and the thickneſs of it, added to the length and coarſeneſs of the hair, defends it much from the bites of the Dogs. Theſe animals are hunted with Dogs in the winter nights, and afford a ſpecies of diverſion to thoſe who are fond of the ſport : when taken, their hind quarters are ſometimes made into hams, which are well flavoured, but the fat is apt to become ruſty by keeping. The ſkin, dreſſed with the hair on, is made uſe of as piſtol furniture, and bruſhes are made of the hair, which painters call ſweetening tools, and uſe them to harmonize and ſoften their ſhades.

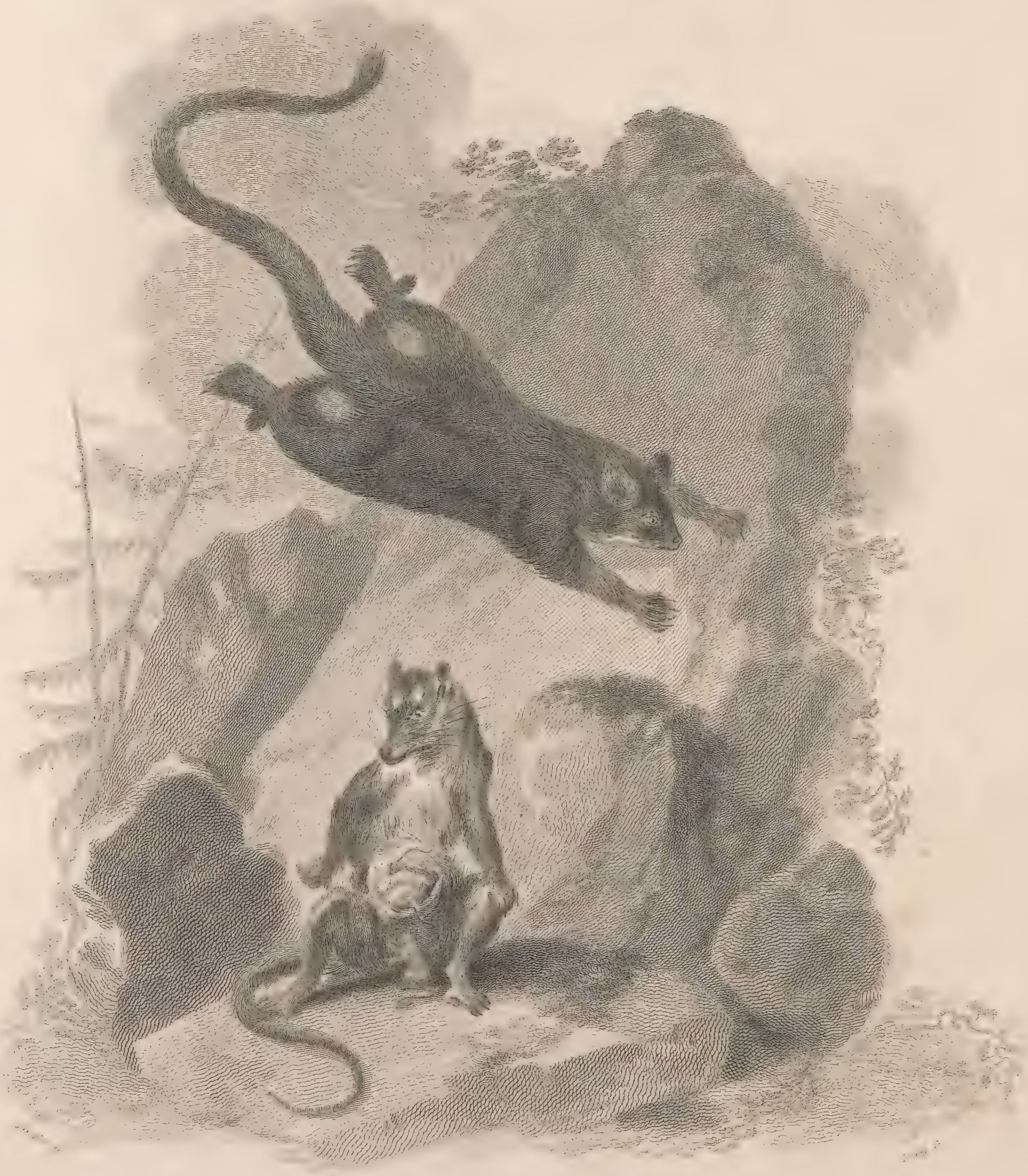
The uſual method of catching Badgers is with a ſteel trap, or ſpringe; or elſe to dig a pitfall, acroſs their accuſtomed path, which muſt be five feet deep, and four feet long, narrow at the top and bottom, and wide in the middle. This pit muſt be covered with ſmall ſticks which have their leaves on them, ſo as that the Badger may not ſuſpect any deſign, and fall into it when he attempts to croſs over. They are alſo, ſometimes, hunted into their holes on a moon-ſhine night, and then dug out again(A).

(A) Mortimer's Huſbandry, Vol. I. p. 314.

THE BADGER.

The female brings forth but once a year, which is in ſummer time, and uſually produces four or five at a litter.

The Badger is found in moſt parts of Europe, as far north as Norway and Ruſſia, and the deſert beyond Orenburgh, north of the Caſpian Sea. It is alſo found in China, where it is much eſteemed as food, and the fleſh is frequently expoſed for ſale in the butchers ſhops in Pekin. The parts of England where they are moſt common, are Suſſex, Eſſex, and ſome of the inland counties.



Publiſhed by W.Darton, J.Harvey & W.Belch, April 27th 1

THE FLYING & VIRGINIAN OPOSSUMS

THE FLYING OPOSSUM.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

The number and diſpoſition of the teeth uncertain.

Five toes on each foot; the hind feet formed like a hand with a diſtinct thumb.

The body alated like the Flying Squirrel.

SYNONIMS.

POTAURUS, *Dr. Shaw's Naturaliſt Miſc.*

HEPOONA ROO, *White's Botany Bay.*

THIS animal has not long been added to the catalogue of quadrupeds; it is an inhabitant of New South Wales, and is hitherto not ſufficiently known to aſcertain either its generic characters or its habits with any degree of accuracy; it is however probable, from analogy, that it ſomewhat reſembles the Flying Squirrel in its manners. The ingenious Dr. Shaw, whoſe knowledge of natural hiſtory gives great weight to his opinion, ſeems inclined to make a new genus of this animal, under the generic name Potaurus, as, although it greatly reſembles the Opoſſum genus in ſome particulars, it differs from it in others: the deciſion muſt, perhaps, be reſerved for more accurate inveſtigation than we are hitherto poſſeſſed of.

This animal is nearly as large as a Cat, and is very active and playful; its colour is dark, very rich and gloſſy, and mixed with grey; it is white under its belly, throat, and thighs; each hip is adorned with a round ſpot of the colour of tanned leather; the texture of its fur is beautifully ſoft and fine, and much more delicate than that of the Sea-Otter; it is continued down to the claws: the noſe is ſharp and pointed; the ears upright and large; it has five toes on each foot; but, on the hind feet, one of the toes reſembles a thumb, by means of which the animal can uſe thoſe feet as hands; the three outſide claws on the hind-feet are connected by a membrane; like the Flying Squirrel, the ſkin of the ſides and belly is looſe, and capable of great extenſion; it is connected to the feet, both before and behind; ſo that, when the animal ſtretches out its legs, the ſkin on the ſides becomes extended ſomewhat like the Bat. By this means, the ſurface of the animal's body is increaſed, and the little creature is enabled to keep itſelf buoyant in the air, till the projectile force of its leap is expired, when it naturally deſcends. By this means, it is enabled to jump from one tree to another, at the diſtance of above one hundred yards; but it always mounts to the top of a tree before it takes its leap. As this membrane is broader in this animal than in the Flying Squirrel, it is probable, that it is capable of leaping further.

THE VIRGINIAN OPOSSUM.

Generic Characters.

The cutting teeth unequal in number in each jaw.
Two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on each foot: the hind feet formed like a hand, with a diſtinct thumb.
The tail very long, ſlender, and naked.

Synonims.

Didelphis marsupialis, *Linn. Syſt.* 71.
Le Sarigue ou L'Opossum, *de Buffon*, x. 279. *tab.* xlv. xlvi.
Mus marsupialis, *Klein Quad.* 71.
Philander saturate spadiceus, &c. *Briſſon Quad.* 207.
Wood-Rat, *Du Pratz Louiſiana*, ii. 65.
Semi-vulpa, *Geſner Quad.* 870.
Tlaquatzin, *Hermandez Mex.* 330.
Tai-ibi (maſ.) Caragueya (fem.) *Marcgrave Braſil*, 222.
Raii Syn. Quad. 182. 185.

THIS animal is about ſeventeen inches in length, without the tail, which is fourteen. Its head is ſharp, reſembling that of a Fox; the eyes are round, ſmall, black, and lively, and placed upright; the ears are long, broad, and tranſparent, reſembling thoſe of the Rat. The face is covered with ſhort, ſoft hairs, of a duſky-colour; beſides which, it has ſome long ſtiff hairs on each ſide of the noſe, and behind the eyes; and over each eye there is a large white ſpot. The cheeks incline to white: the ſides of the neck are of a whitiſh yellow; the hair on the hind part of the neck and the back is ſoft to the touch, but appears uneven to the eye; it is above two inches long, each hair is of a yellowiſh white at the root, black in the middle, and whitiſh at the end; the ſides are covered with duſky hairs; thoſe on the belly are of a dirty white; they are ſoft and have a woolly appearance; the legs and thighs are ſhort and black; the feet duſky; the toes armed with whitiſh claws; that part of the tail which is next to the body is covered with long black hairs for the ſpace of three inches; the reſt, to the extremity, is all over ſmall ſcales of a whitiſh colour, which gives it an uncouth appearance, ſomewhat reſembling the body of a Snake; it has a prehenſile quality, and the animal frequently hangs by it, ſuſpended from the branch of a tree, and, by ſwinging its body, eaſily tranſports itſelf from branch to branch; the body is round and thick; the belly of the female is furniſhed with a large pouch or bag, in which the teats are ſituated, and which ſerves as a ſhelter for the young, as ſoon as they are produced; which period happens long before they have attained to that degree of perfection obſervable in other quadrupeds, when newly born; and, indeed, before they have arrived at one fourth part of the proportionable ſize of animals at their birth; in this ſtate they are blind, naked, and totally helpleſs; they are, however, directed by the unerring guide of inſtinct, to ſeek for this ſafe aſylum, into which they all creep, and faſten ſo cloſely to the teats, as not to be ſeparated but with great difficulty (A): here they not only find ſhelter, warmth, and ſafety from external accidents, but are amply provided with nouriſhment, till they have attained their perfect ſhape and ſight, and are covered with hair, and poſſeſſed of ſufficient ſtrength to quit their retreat, and undergo what may be called a ſecond birth: after this time they only uſe the pouch as a ſafe retreat from danger, and the parent carries them about with her. The attachment of the female to her young is at this period exceſſive, and ſhe will endure any tortures, rather than ſuffer this

(A) Ulloa aſſerts, that he has found five of theſe little creatures hid in the pouch of the mother, three days after ſhe was dead, and that they were ſtill alive, and clinging ſtrongly to the teat.

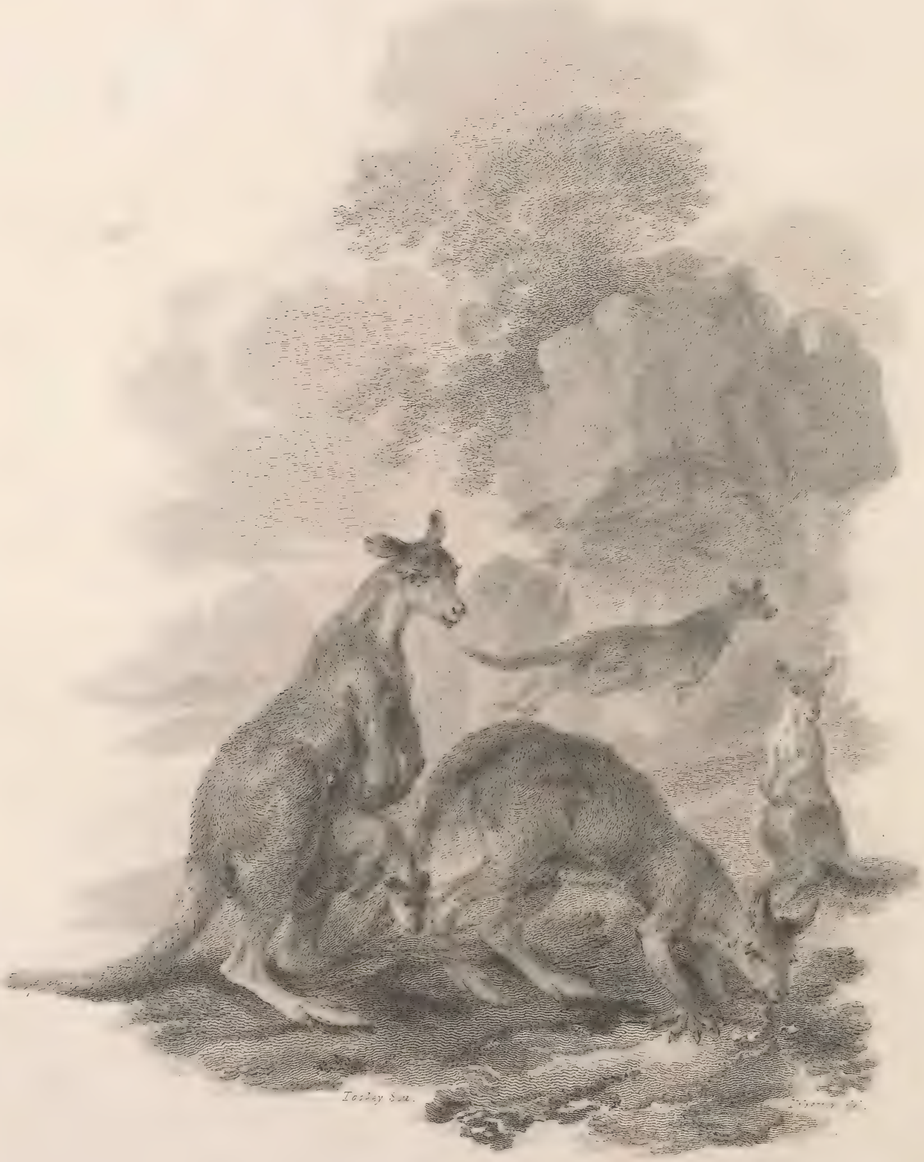
receptacle to be opened, if ſhe can prevent it, being furniſhed with the power of opening or cloſing it by the aſſiſtance of ſome very ſtrong muſcles.

The Opoſſum, when on the ground, appears to be a very helpleſs animal, the formation of its hands preventing it from walking faſt, or running with any tolerable degree of ſwiftneſs; but its alertneſs in climbing trees makes ample amends for this defect; it aſcends them with the greateſt facility and expedition, and, by the additional help of its prehenſile tail, is more active in this ſituation than moſt quadrupeds, Monkeys excepted; it hunts eagerly after birds and their neſts, is very deſtructive to poultry, of which it ſucks the blood without eating the fleſh; it will alſo eat roots, and wild fruits; when it is purſued and overtaken, it will feign itſelf dead, till the danger is over: it is as tenacious of life as a Cat, and cannot be killed without great difficulty. The female brings forth four, five, or ſix young ones at a time.

The fleſh of the old animals is wholeſome good food, and reſembles that of a ſucking pig; the ſkin has a very fœtid ſmell: the Indian women dye the hair, and weave it into their garters and girdles.

The Opoſſum is found in Virginia, Louiſiana, Mexico, Braſil, and Peru. Mr. de Buffon ſuppoſes this genus is confined to America, and warmly combats the opinion of other naturaliſts on this ſubject But Mr. Pennant ſeems ſatisfied from the authority of Piſo, Valentyn, and Le Brun(A); who have ſeen it both in Java and the Molucca Iſlands, and from that of many collectors in Holland, who have received it frequently from thoſe places, that a ſpecies of the genus, perhaps only a variety of that juſt deſcribed, inhabits the Indian iſlands, as well as the continent of America. But this matter is now put out of doubt by ſome animals of this genus, which have been ſent from our ſettlement lately eſtabliſhed in New South Wales.

(A) En Indiis orientalibus, idque ſolum, quantum hactenus conſtat, in Amboina, ſimilis Beſtia (Carigueya) frequens ad felis magnitudinem accidens, mactata ab incolis comeditur, ſi rite preparetur, nam alias fœtet, nomen illi Cous Cous inditum.—*Piſo Braſil,* 323. Le Brun, in his voyage to the Eaſt Indies, deſcribes this animal under the name of Filander, i. 347. *tab.* 213.



Publiſhed by W. Darton, J. Harvey, and W. Belch. London Oct.r 1. 1798.

KANGURU

THE KANGURU.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

No canine teeth; four broad cutting teeth in the upper jaw; two long lanceolated teeth in the lower, pointing forward; four (A) grinding teeth in each jaw, remote from the others. This animal has the very ſingular power of ſeparating the lower inciſores, and bringing them again cloſe to each other. *Pennant's Hiſt. of Quad.* 3d. edit. vol. ii. p. 29.

SYNONIMS.

JERBOA GIGANTEA, *Zimmerm. Zool. Geogr.* 526.
KANGUROO, *Cook's Voy.* iii. p. 577. pl. 20.
KANGURU, *Pennant's Hiſt. Quad.* p. 336. pl. 35.

IT is to the indefatigable ardour and enterpriſing ſpirit of Sir Joſeph Banks, that we are indebted for our firſt acquaintance with this moſt ſingular quadruped. Separated, by its native abode, from the enquiring eye of the naturaliſt, it remained wholly unknown till the country, of which it is a native, was firſt explored by that great circumnavigator, Captain Cook, who, fortunately for the lovers of that branch of ſcience, was accompanied by that eminent enquirer into the productions of nature.

The uncommon general appearance of this animal, added to the diſpoſition of its teeth, would almoſt warrant its being made a new genus of; although it muſt be confeſſed, on the other hand, that ſome properties it poſſeſſes, in common with the Opoſſum, ſeem to declare it of that genus;

(A) Mr. White, in his Account of the Productions of South Wales, ſays this animal has five grinders on each ſide, in each jaw; and that the moſt forward of them is very ſmall.—P. 274.

to which Mr. Pennant has accordingly referred it, in his excellent Hiſtory of Quadrupeds, and we are unwilling to differ in opinion from ſo good a judge.

The individuals, which have hitherto come within our obſervation, vary conſiderably in ſize; the largeſt ſpecimen meaſured eight feet five inches from the tip of the noſe to the end of the tail, and weighed one hundred and fifty pounds; and it is generally believed they attain to a much larger ſize.

The Kanguru reſembles the Jerboa in its mode of ſtanding and running, or rather jumping, but in no other particular. Its general colour is a greyiſh brown, much like the Wild Rabbit of Great Britain.

Its ſhape appears to be greatly diſproportioned, being very ſmall about the head and ſhoulders, and gradually increaſing in bulk to the bottom of the belly and hips, where it is largeſt. Its legs likewiſe differ much in their proportionate length, the hinder ones being three feet ſeven inches long, whereas the fore legs meaſure but nineteen inches. This extraordinary diſproportion in the length of the legs obliges the animal to walk erect on its hind legs, and it performs its progreſſive motions by ſprings or leaps, like ſome ſmall birds, but with ſuch ſurpriſing ſtrength and activity, that it will traverſe twenty feet of ground at one bound, and jump over obſtacles nine feet high, with the greateſt facility; and theſe bounds are repeated ſo rapidly, that the ſwifteſt Greyhound finds it a difficult taſk to overtake it; and if by chance caught by the Dog, it ſtruggles with ſo much ſtrength, that it ſoon eſcapes from its adverſary, and acts the ſame part over again. In theſe ſtruggles, it uſes the tail as a weapon of defence, and ſtrikes ſo hard with it, as to make the Dog ſhy of a ſecond engagement. The uſual method, therefore, of obtaining this animal, is to lie in wait with a gun, and ſhoot it. The hinder legs are very ſtrong, and, when ſitting, the Kanguru reſts on the whole of their length, and uſes the tail as an additional leg, to balance and ſupport the body, the rump being elevated ſeveral inches from the ground; the under part of theſe legs is callous, and wholly diveſted of hair: the toes on theſe feet appear to be only three in number, although there are really four; the inner one is of a peculiar ſtructure, appearing at firſt ſight to be ſingle, though, on more accurate inſpection, it is found to be actually divided down the middle, which diviſion extends through the ball of the toe belonging to it, the whole appearing as if the ſeparation was made by a very ſharp inſtrument. The middle toe greatly exceeds the others in length, is by much the ſtrongeſt, and bears a great reſemblance to that of an Oſtrich. The fore legs are furniſhed with five toes and as many claws, but their ſhortneſs prevents their being applied to the purpoſe of walking, and the animal only uſes them, as hands, to convey its food to the mouth, and to ſcratch and dig holes in the earth. The tail is near three feet in length, it is very thick at the rump, and tapers gradually towards the end. When the animal is at reſt, the tail appears to lie at eaſe behind it; but, when in motion, it is uſually carried quite erect. The countenance of this animal is mild and pleaſing; the ſhape of the head bears ſome reſemblance to that of a Fawn; the ears are large, and generally ſtand erect.

The ingenious Mr. Home, who has obliged the world with ſome very curious and intereſting anatomical obſervations on the mode of generation of the Kanguru, obſerves(A), "that it differs in the economy of its young from all other quadrupeds, except thoſe of the genus Opoſſum, to which, in this particular, it ſeems to be related; the fœtus of this tribe neither deriving its ſupport from a connection with the uterus of the mother, like other quadrupeds, nor receiving it in the manner in which it is conveyed to the young of ſuch animals as are hatched from the egg, but having a mode of ſupport peculiar to itſelf and its congenera. It therefore appears to form a link in the chain of gradation from the one to the other."

The female Kanguru has two mammæ, and each is furniſhed with two nipples: they are not placed upon the abdominal muſcles, as in moſt quadrupeds, but are ſituated between two moveable bones connected with the os pubis, peculiar to this tribe of animals. The mammæ are covered by the lining of the pouch, or falſe belly, and the nipples project into that cavity. The ſkin of this covering is thinly ſcattered over its ſurface with ſhort hair, except at the root of the nipples, where there are tufts of ſome length, one at the baſis of each. It is from theſe nipples that the young

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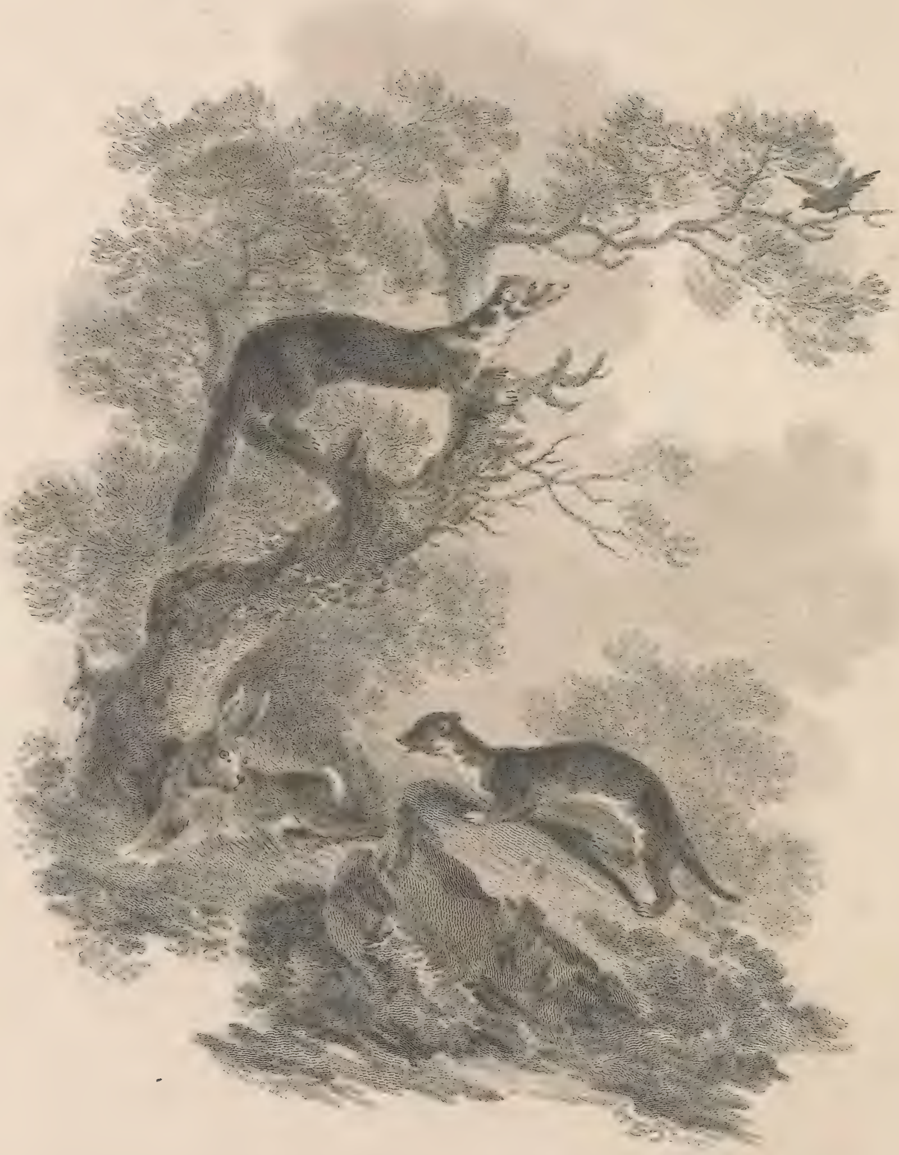
(A) Philoſophical Tranſactions for the Year 1795. Part i. p. 221.

fœtus receives its nouriſhment, from the time of its excluſion from the uterus, which happens at ſo early a period, that, at that time, the little animal does not exceed an inch in length, and weighs but twenty-one grains. At this early period of the growth of the fœtus, its mouth is merely a round hole, juſt large enough to receive the point of the nipple; this hole gradually enlarges as the animal advances in ſize, till it is capable of receiving the whole of the nipple into its mouth, where it lies in a groove, formed in the middle of the tongue, well adapted for that purpoſe. Mr. Home thinks it probable, that the mouth of the fœtus, in this very early ſtate, is attached to the nipple by means of the viſcid gelatinous ſubſtance, which is always found in the uterus. It is obſervable that, in this young ſtate, the fore paws, when compared with the reſt of the body, are large and ſtrong, and the little claws extremely diſtinct, to facilitate the motion of the little animal during its reſidence in the large pouch, while the hind legs, which are afterwards to become very large, were both ſhorter and ſmaller than the others. The young ones continue to reſide in this bag, or pouch, till they have attained their full maturity, only quitting it occaſionally for exerciſe or amuſement; and, even after they have quitted it, they have been obſerved to run into the pouch, for ſhelter, on the leaſt appearance of danger; on which occaſion, the tender mother contracts the part with ſo much ſtrength, that it cannot be forced open without the greateſt difficulty.

The Kanguru is an inhabitant of New Holland, and has not hitherto been found in any other place. Its fleſh is eaten by the natives and coloniſts, and accounted excellent food.

The animals, from which the annexed plate was drawn, are now living in the Royal Garden at Kew, where they breed, and appear quite naturaliſed. They produce one young at a birth, and feed chiefly on graſs.

Lieutenant Shortland deſcribes them as feeding in herds, conſiſting of thirty or forty; and ſays, that one is always on the watch, at a diſtance from the reſt.



Publiſhed by W. Darton J. Harvey & W. Belch, London June 19th [illegible]

MARTIN

and

WEASEL.

THE MARTIN.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp; body ſlender.
Five toes on each foot.

SYNONIMS.

MARTES GUTTURE ALBO, *Geſner Quad.* 764.
MARTES, alias FOYNA, MARTIN, or MARTLET, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 200.
MUSTELA MARTES, *Linn. Syſt.* 67.
MARD, *Faun. Suec.* No. 15.
KUNA, *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 222.
STEIN-MARTER, *Klein Quad.* 64.
LA FOUINE, *de Buffon*, vii. 186. *tab.* xviii.
MARTIN, *Brit. Zool.* I. 79.

THE Martin is the moſt beautiful of the Britiſh beaſts of prey. The elegance of its form, the brilliancy of its colours, and the graceful agility of all its motions, render it at once a moſt pleaſing and entertaining little creature. Its odour is likewiſe an additional recommendation to it; for, inſtead of being offenſive, like moſt of its tribe, it has the agreeable flavour of muſk, without being ſo predominant.

The length of the Martin is generally eighteen inches from the end of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is ten inches long, well clothed with long hair, and buſhy at the end. Its head is ſmall, and the form of it elegant; its eyes are lively and full of expreſſion; its ears broad, rounded, and open. The body, ſides, and tail, are entirely covered with a fine, thick, downy fur, intermixed with long hair, the roots of which are aſh-coloured, the middle of a bright cheſtnut, and the points black, giving a darkiſh brown appearance to the whole; the belly is rather paler, and the breaſt and throat are white; the legs and upper parts of the feet of a deep chocolate colour; the under ſides of the feet covered with a thick down, like that on the body; the feet broad, the claws white, large, and ſharp, and well adapted to the purpoſe of climbing trees, but, like all others of the ſame tribe, incapable of being ſheathed or unſheathed at pleaſure. The cry of the Martin is ſharp and piercing, but it never utters it, except when in pain or diſtreſs.

The Martin is a great deſtroyer of Rats, Mice, and other ſmall quadrupeds; poultry, game, and ſmall birds are its conſtant prey; and it is remarkably fond of honey. Its retreat is generally in the hollow of ſome tree, towards the top, and ſo ſituated as to place the animal in perfect ſecurity. It generally prefers the neſt of a Squirrel, which, after that little creature has taken great pains to complete, the Martin, by the uſual claim of ſuperior ſtrength, diſpoſſeſſes the ingenious architect, by killing it; after which it enlarges its dimenſions, lines it with ſofter materials, and in that ſecure and convenient retreat, brings forth its young. Its little family does not conſiſt of more than three or four, which, like the reſt of this tribe, are brought forth with their eyes unopened, but quickly arrive at a ſtate of perfection. The female has but a ſmall quantity of milk, in proportion to her ſize, but ſhe amply compenſates for this natural defect, by bringing home eggs and live birds to her offspring, and thus early accuſtoming them to a life of carnage and plunder. As ſoon as the young are able to leave the neſt, they are led by their dam into the woods, where the birds at once recogniſe their enemies, and fail not to attend them, as they do the Fox, with every mark of animoſity and terror.

The Martin is valiant and courageous, and will attack animals much larger and ſtronger than itſelf; as the Sheep, the Hare, and even the Wild Cat, which, though much ſtronger, is always worſted, and often killed, in the combat. Indeed, theſe animals ſeldom meet without a mutual attack.

Notwithſtanding this ferocity of diſpoſition, the Martin ſeems capable of being tamed. Geſner ſays, "he kept one, which was very tame, and extremely playful and entertaining: it uſed to go to the houſes of the neighbours, and always came home when it wanted food; it was particularly fond of a Dog, with which it had been bred up, and would play with it, as Cats do, lying on its back, and pretending to bite without anger or injury." The Count de Buffon ſays, he kept one tame, which, though it had loſt its ferocity, did not diſcover any marks of attachment, and ſtill continued ſo wild as to require being chained. On the appearance of a Cat, it inſtantly prepared for war, and, if any of the poultry came within its reach, flew upon them with great eagerneſs. It made frequent eſcapes from its confinement; at firſt it returned after ſome hours abſence, but without appearing pleaſed; the time of abſence of each ſubſequent elopement gradually increaſed, and at laſt it took its final departure. He remarks, that this individual drank frequently, that it would continue ſleeping for two days without intermiſſion, and would then remain awake for as long a period of time. When preparing for ſleep, it formed its body into a circle, hid its head, and covered it with its tail.

The Martin is an inhabitant of Europe and North America, but is moſt plentiful in the latter. It is likewiſe found in all the northern parts of the world, from Siberia to China and Canada. They are every where hunted for their furs, which are held in great eſtimation, and are moſt valuable when the animal is taken in the beginning of winter. In England they are uſed to line the robes of magiſtrates. The moſt valuable part of the ſkin is that which is browneſt, extending along the back bone. They form a conſiderable article of commerce; above twelve thouſand of theſe ſkins being annually imported into England from Hudſon's Bay, and above thirty thouſand from Canada.

THE COMMON WEASEL.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two obtuſe teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp; body ſlender.
Five toes on each foot.

SYNONIMS.

MUSTELA, *Geſner Quad.* 752.
WEASEL, FITCHET, or FOUMART, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 195.
WHITRED, *Sib. Scot.* III. ii.
WIESEL, *Klein Quad.* 62.
WEESEL, *Brit. Zool.* I. 82.
LA BELETTE, *de Buffon*, vii. *tab.* 225. xxix.

THE ſingular diſproportion between the length and height of the little animals, which compoſe this family, is completely characteriſtic of them, and is alone ſufficient to diſtinguiſh them from all other carnivorous quadrupeds. The length of the Wolf, in proportion to its height, is as one and a half to one; whereas the length of the Weaſel, compared with its height, is as five to one. But, beſides this ſtriking character, they have another equally pointed; namely, the extraordinary ſmell of their bodies, which, in ſome, as the Weaſel, Ferret, Polecat, and a few others, is highly fœtid and offenſive, and in the Skunk, inſupportably ſo; whereas in others, as the Civet-Cat and Martins, it is equally pleaſant, and is uſed, even as a perfume, by the ladies. This odour, whether agreeable or not, is furniſhed by two glands placed under the tail, from which an unctuous matter continually exudes. Though theſe animals are comparatively ſmall, they become formidable, from their enterpriſing activity; and their eagerneſs after plunder is only equalled by the cruelty with which they commit their depredations. Unable, from their ſize, to make much reſiſtance, they find their chief protection in their minuteneſs; and, conſcious as it were, of their thieving diſpoſition, they ſhun the ſight of man, hiding themſelves in holes in the day time; from whence, at the approach of evening, they ſally forth to commit their devaſtations. They are all cruel, voracious, and cowardly; and, being ſlow in purſuit, from the ſhortneſs of their legs, depend on their aſſiduity, patience, and cunning for their ſupport. The ſlenderneſs of their body enables them to inſinuate themſelves into very ſmall holes, in ſearch of their prey; whence they have obtained the appellation of vermin, from their ſimilitude to a worm in this particular.

The Weaſel is the ſmalleſt of this numerous family; its length being only ſeven inches, from the end of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is two inches and a half long, and adds conſiderably to the apparent length of the body: its colour is a reddiſh brown, reſembling cinnamon. This colour extends all over the head, neck, back, ſides, and legs; but it is white under the throat and belly. There is a brown ſpot on each jaw, beneath the corners of the mouth. It has whiſkers, like a Cat, and its mouth is armed with thirty-two teeth, which are two more than to be found in any of the Cat kind, and well adapted for tearing and chewing. The eyes are black and ſmall; the ears ſhort, broad, and roundiſh; and have a fold at the lower part, which gives them the appearance of being double.

The Weaſel, like all its congenera, does not walk or run, as other quadrupeds do; but advances, by bounding or jumping; and, when it aſcends a tree, it gains a conſiderable height by a ſingle ſpring. It ſeizes its prey, by jumping on it in the ſame manner, and, having great flexibilty of body, eaſily evades much ſtronger animals, when they attempt to ſeize it. The Weaſel always preys in ſilence; and never utters any cry, except it is ſtruck, when it expreſſes reſentment and pain by a rough kind of ſqueaking. Its appetite, for animal food, is inſatiable, and never forſakes it; and it prefers eating it in a ſtate of putrefaction; nay, it ſeems even to delight in the vicinity of putrid effluvia; for the Count de Buffon tells us of a Weaſel, which was found, with three young ones, in the carcaſe of a Wolf that was become putrid, having been hung up by the hind legs, as a terror to others. This horrid retreat the Weaſel had pitched upon, as a proper place to retire to, in order to bring forth her young; ſhe had, accordingly, lined the cavity with hay, graſs, and leaves, for that purpoſe; and the young ones were juſt brought forth, when the neſt was diſcovered by a peaſant, paſſing that way.

Although the ſize of the Weaſel is comparatively diminutive, it is, nevertheleſs, a very deſtructive and formidable enemy to animals a hundred times its own ſize. The Hare is terrified into a ſtate of defenceleſs imbecility at the ſight of this little creature, and reſigns itſelf to its fate, without making the leaſt attempt either to reſiſt or eſcape, ſending forth, at the ſame time, cries, which indicate the greateſt diſtreſs: it is equally deſtructive to Rabbits, poultry, and young birds, and greedily devours eggs, wherever it can find them. Its bite is generally fatal; it makes its attack near the head, and artfully fixes its ſharp teeth in a vital part, making a wound ſo ſmall, as ſcarcely to be perceived. We are told, that an Eagle having ſeized a Weaſel, mounted into the air with it; and was after obſerved to be in great diſtreſs. Its little enemy had extricated itſelf ſo far as to be able to bite the Eagle ſeverely in the throat, which preſently brought it to the ground, and afforded the Weaſel an opportunity of making its eſcape.

This little animal is very common and well known in moſt parts of the country; but it is held in very different, and even oppoſite, degrees of eſtimation in different parts of it. In thoſe places where Lambs are bred, the Weaſel is a moſt formidable and noxious inmate, and its deſtruction is attempted by every poſſible contrivance; while, on the other hand, in thoſe places where much grain is produced and preſerved, its friendly offices, in leſſening the number of thoſe little animals which feed on corn, are univerſally acknowledged. It is, perhaps, one of the moſt untameable of quadrupeds. When kept in a cage, it conſtantly refuſes to eat in the preſence of any one. It is in perpetual agitation, and ſo much diſturbed and moleſted by the ſight of man, that it will even die if not permitted to hide itſelf.

In a ſtate of nature, it ſleeps during the day time in its hole, and, at the approach of evening, is obſerved peeping and ſtealing out of its retreat, and creeping about the farm yards, in ſearch of its prey. When it enters a Hen-rooſt, it inſtantly attacks and kills the young ones, leaving the old Hens and Cocks unhurt. It does not devour its prey on the ſpot, but carries it off to its young, or its retreat, to be eaten at leiſure. It is difficult to ſecure any place from its depredations, as it runs up the ſides of walls with the greateſt facility; and the ſmallneſs and flexibility of its body enable it to paſs through almoſt every crack and crevice. During the winter ſeaſon, the Weaſel chiefly confines its nocturnal excurſions to barns and farm yards, where it deſtroys more Rats and Mice than even the Cat; purſuing them into their holes, and always killing them after a ſhort reſiſtance. It is very deſtructive to young Pigeons, and, indeed, to all kinds of young birds; and hunts with increaſed boldneſs and avidity, when it has young ones to provide for. In ſummer, it ventures farther from home, and always follows its favourite prey, the Rat, to its ſummer receſſes; accordingly, it is found with that animal in low grounds, by the ſides of waters, and near mills.

When the female is about to bring forth her young, ſhe takes uncommon pains for the accommodation and comfort of her little family, by lining the hole with graſs, hay, leaves, and moſs; and generally brings forth from three to five at a litter; which, like thoſe of the Dog kind, are born with their eyelids unopened, but ſoon acquire their ſight, and ſufficient ſtrength to accompany and aſſiſt their dam in her nocturnal depredations.

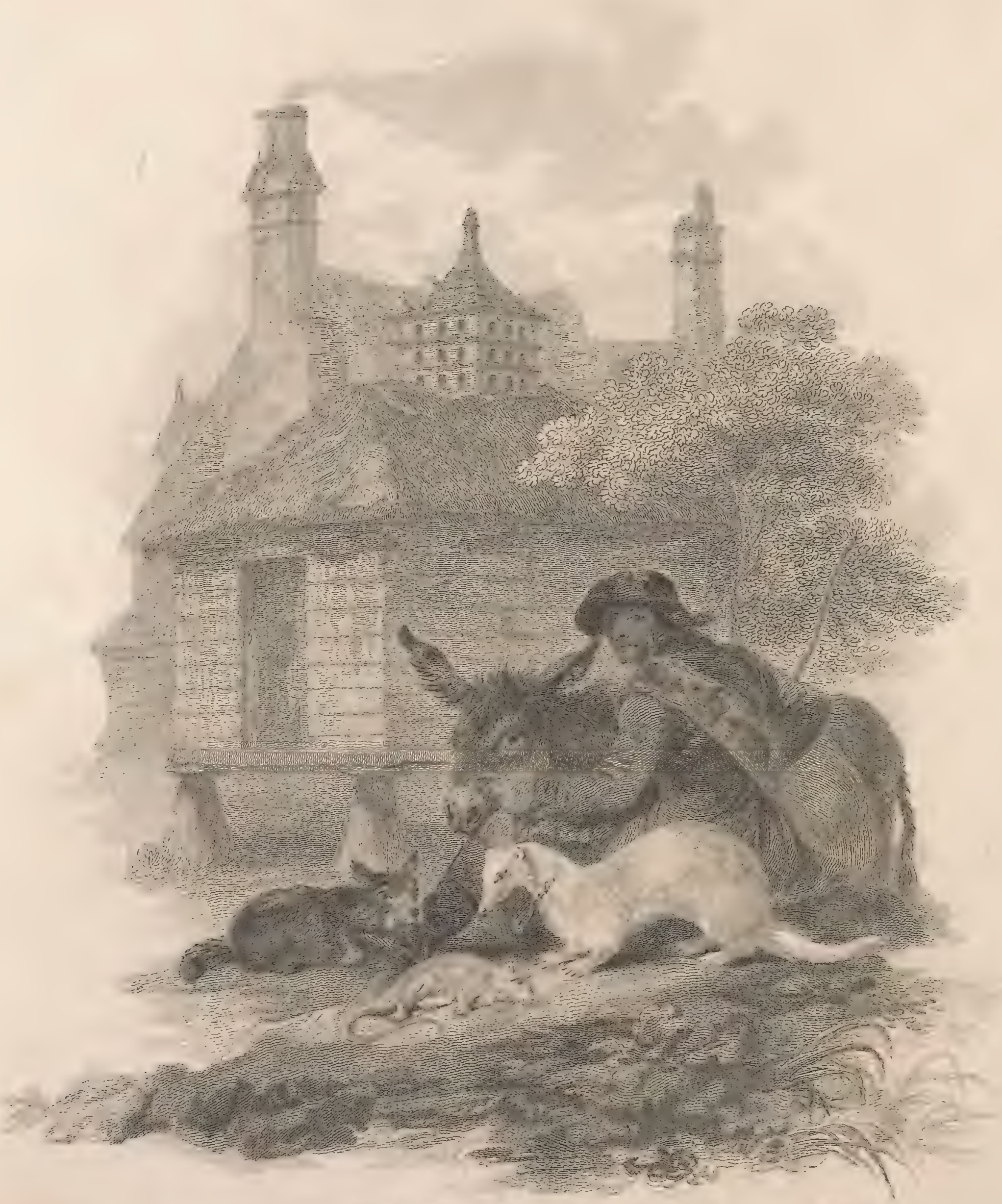
The Weaſel has a ſtrong, diſagreeable ſcent, which is the moſt offenſive in ſummer time, and particularly ſo, when the animal is irritated or purſued.

Notwithſtanding what has been aſſerted, reſpecting the untameable nature of this little animal, the Count de Buffon relates, "that a lady ſo far familiarized a young Weaſel, which was taken in her garden, that it ſoon learned to lick the hand which fed it, and became as frolicſome and careſſing as a Squirrel." The ſame author makes mention alſo of "a gentleman who trained a young Weaſel to follow him wherever he went. This he accompliſhed by ſtroking it gently over the back, and threatening and even beating it whenever it offered to bite." If theſe facts can be well authenticated and eſtabliſhed by future experiments, the Weaſel may prove to be a very advantageous ſubſtitute for the Cat, particularly on board of ſhips, where its ſize and ſhape render it very well adapted to the purſuit of Rats and Mice into their holes and lurking places.

This animal inhabits the temperate parts of Europe, but is ſcarce in the north. It is alſo found in Barbary (A,) and in Siberia there is a white variety, which is called Laſmitſka: the ſkins of theſe are ſold to the Chineſe for three or four rubles the hundred (B.)

(A) Shaw's Travels, 249.

(B) Pennant's Syn. Quad. p. 212.



Ibbetson, del.

London Publish'd by [illegible] Harvey & [illegible] May [illegible]

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FERRET

THE FERRET.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp; body ſlender.
Five toes on each foot.

SYNONIMS.

MUSTELA FURO, *Linn. Syſt.* 68.
VIVERRA, *Plin.* lib. viii. *cap.* 55.
MUSTELA RUSTICA, VIVERRA, FURO, ICTIS, *Geſner Quad.* 762.
Raii Syn. Quad. 108.
FRET, *Klein Quad.* 63.

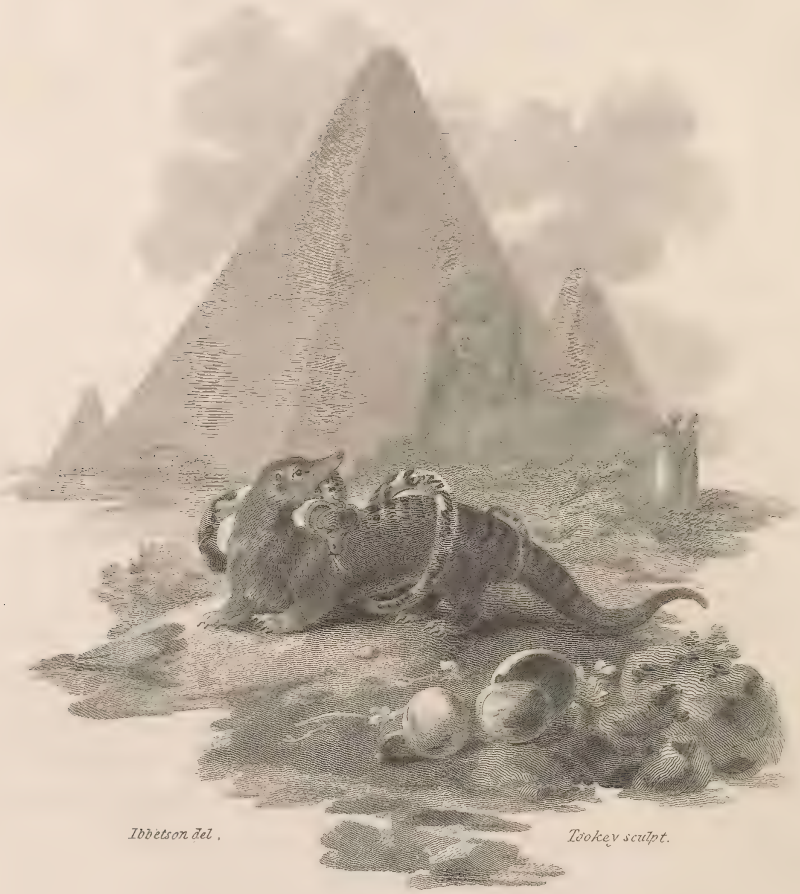
THE Ferret, though ſo frequently ſeen, and apparently common in this country, is by no means indigenous here, being originally a native of Africa, whence it was firſt introduced into Spain, to counteract the great fecundity of the Rabbits, with which that kingdom was overrun. For the ſame purpoſe, it afterwards found its way into England, where it lives and breeds, provided it be kept warm. It is, however, diſcoverable, that the offspring of this animal very ſoon degenerates, and every generation gradually loſes its ferocity; to remedy which, warreners are obliged to improve the breed, by leaving the female near the haunts of the Polecat: the produce of this mixed breed regain their original fierceneſs, but they loſe the colour of their mother, and become darker, like the Polecat. The original colour of the Ferret is a very pale yellow; the eyes are red and fiery, the ears round, and the noſe very ſharp. The length of this animal is about fourteen inches; it is lively and active, and, being the natural enemy of the Rabbit, is not only uſeful, but even neceſſary, in warrens, to force them out of their burrows, in order that they may be taken; for which purpoſe the ſhape and ſize of the body are admirably well adapted, being ſlender and very flexible. It ſeldom tears its prey, but is content with ſucking its blood: it is therefore neceſſary, when the Ferret is turned into the hole, in purſuit of the Rabbit, that it ſhould have a muzzle on its head, otherwiſe it would ſatiate itſelf with the blood of its prey, at the bottom of the hole, and, inſtead of returning to its maſter, would go to ſleep there, and only wake to renew its depredations, till the cold of a northern winter put an end to its carnage and exiſtence together. It often happens, that the Ferret gets the muzzle off his head, in which caſe he is generally loſt, unleſs he is immediately dug out. Attempts are ſometimes made to bring him from the hole, by burning ſtraw and other ſubſtances at the mouth of it; but this method ſeldom ſucceeds.

The female is conſiderably leſs than the male: ſhe produces from five or ſix, to nine, at a litter, twice a year.

Being a native of the torrid zone, the Ferret cannot bear the rigour of our northern climate; it is, therefore, found neceſſary to keep it in boxes, in a bed of wool; where it ſpends an idle life, between eating and ſleeping, except when called upon to exerciſe the talents for which it is kept. It is uſually fed on bread and milk.

The ſcent of this animal is offenſive, and its manners diſguſting; for, although it appears to be tame and familiar, it is ſo without attachment; and ſo great is its thirſt after blood, that it has been known to attack, and even kill, children in the cradle(A). It is very iraſcible, and its bite is not to be cured without great difficulty.

(A) Buffon.



Ibbetson del.

Tookey sculpt.

Published by W. Darton, J. Harvey, & W. Belch, London Novr. 1st 1799.

ICHNEUMON.

THE ICHNEUMON.

Generic Characters.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp; body ſlender.
Five toes before, five behind.

Synonims.

Ιχνευμων, *Ariſt. Hiſt. An.* lib. ix. c. 6.
Ichneumon, *Plin.* lib. viii. c. 24. *Briſſon Quad.* 181.
Meles Ichneumon, *Haſſelquiſt Itin.* 191.
Viverra Ichneumon, *Linn. Syſt.* 63.
Mustela Ægyptiaca, *Klein Quad.* 64.
Vulpecula Zeilanica, *Seba. Muſ.* i. p. 66. tab. xli. fig. 1.
Mus Pharaonis, *Proſp. Alpin.* i. 234. *Briſſon Quad.* 181.
Quil, vel Quirpele, *Garc. Arom.* 214.

THIS beautiful little animal is the handſomeſt of the genus to which it belongs. It is ſo mild and gentle in its manners, that, in Egypt, it is domeſticated like a Cat, and much eſteemed for keeping the houſes clear of Rats, Mice, and Serpents.

The individuals differ greatly in their ſize and length, being found from twenty-four to forty-two inches, including the tail, which is nearly as long as the body. The domeſticated ones are generally larger than thoſe which are wild; their colours are, likewiſe, more beautifully variegated. It is, in general, about the ſize of the common Cat, but the body is thinner and longer, and the legs ſhorter than thoſe of that animal. Its general figure is like that of the Polecat, but its fur is much more beautiful and elegant, conſiſting of ſhades of white, brown, fawn-colour, and ſilver-grey; forming together a moſt agreeable and rich mixture. The colour, however, is ſubject to great variety. Like its congenera, it has ſmall eyes, but they have the colour of fire, and ſparkle with the moſt brilliant vivacity. The ears are ſmall, round, and almoſt naked; the noſe long and ſlender. The body is thicker than that of others of this genus. The tail is covered with long hair at the baſe, which gives it the appearance of being very thick at that part, from which it gradually tapers to the point. The belly and throat are brown. Beneath the tail is an orifice, in which a very fœtid humour is ſecreted. Its claws are long and ſharp. When it attacks its prey, it darts on it with great velocity, and ſeldom miſſes its aim. It is a moſt inveterate enemy to Serpents and other noxious reptiles which inhabit the torrid zone, and diſplays great bravery in attacking the moſt dangerous kind without ſhowing any marks of fear, even the Cobra di Capello; and ſhould it receive a wound in the combat, is ſaid inſtantly to retire(A), in order that it may obtain an

(A) Mr. Pennant juſtly remarks, that "this fact is not yet well eſtabliſhed. Botaniſts, he obſerves, are not yet agreed about the ſpecies of this ſanative plant, whoſe uſe, it is pretended, this Weeſel pointed out to mankind. Thoſe who have ſeen the combats between the Ichneumon and Naja, or Cobra di Capello, never could diſcover it. Kæmpfer, a writer of the firſt authority, who viſited India, and who kept a tame Ichneumon, and had been witneſs to its battles with the Serpent, ſays no more than, that it retired and eat the roots of any herb it met with. It is from the Indians he received an account of the root, of whoſe veracity he ſpeaks with the greateſt contempt. *Amæn. Exot.* 576. Rumphius never ſaw the plant growing; but deſcribes it from a ſpecimen ſent him from Java; for he ſays, the Indians would perſuade him that it had no leaves. Vide *Herb. Amboin. App.* 71. All that ſeems certain is, that the Indians have a plant, of whoſe alexipharmic virtues they have a high opinion, and are ſaid to uſe it with ſucceſs againſt the dreadful macaſſar poiſon, and the bite of Serpents. Kæmpfer ſays he had good ſucceſs with one ſpecies, in putrid fevers, and found it infallible for the bite of a mad Dog. As there ſeems no doubt but that a moſt uſeful plant of this nature does exiſt in the Indies, it is to be hoped that ſtrict enquiry will be made after it. In order to direct and facilitate theſe reſearches, reference may be had to *Garcia ab Horto's Hiſt. Aromat. in Cluſ. Exot.* 214. *Kæmpfer Amæn. Exot.* 573. *Rumph. Herb. Amb. App.* 29. *Amæn. Acad.* ii. 89. *Flor. Zeylanica.* 46, 190, 239."

But while we remain in this ſtate of uncertainty with regard to vegetable antidotes, we cannot help congratulating the public on the diſcovery of a certain antidote to the fatal effects of the poiſon of ſnakes and other reptiles, namely, the cauſtic volatile alkaline ſpirit, forty drops of which, given internally in ſome water, and repeated at intervals of ten minutes, and at the ſame time ſome of the ſpirit being applied to the wound, never fails of curing the malady. We believe Dr. Beddows firſt mentioned this antidote in three antidote from a certain herb, after which it returns to the attack, and ſeldom fails of victory. It is likewiſe a great deſtroyer of the eggs of the crocodile, which it digs out of the ſand; and even kills multitudes of the young of thoſe terrible reptiles: the Egyptians, therefore, had abundant reaſon for ranking the Ichneumon among their objects of worſhip. It is more uſeful, for deſtroying Rats and Mice, than the Cat, having a much greater appetite for carnage: it is active and cunning in its mode of attack, and glides along the ground, towards its prey, like a Serpent, as if it had no feet: it ſits erect like the Squirrel, and holds its food in its fore paws like that animal: it will catch any thing that is flung at it. Poultry are its favourite food, and it will feign itſelf dead, till they come within its reach, when it will ſpring on them with great velocity and unerring aim, and, after ſucking their blood, draw them to its hole: it is likewiſe very fond of fiſh. When it ſleeps, it brings its head and tail under its belly, and looks like a round ball with two legs ſticking out. It is remarkably ſkilful in ſeizing Serpents by the throat, ſo as to avoid being injured by them. In a domeſtic ſtate they are capable of great attachment, and will follow thoſe they are accuſtomed to, like a Cat; appearing, like that animal, to be much delighted with being careſſed. Mr. D'Obſonville ſpeaks of one which he reared, and which, he ſays, became tamer than a Cat, and would imitate that animal in many of its actions. "One day he preſented to it a ſmall Water-ſerpent alive, being deſirous to know how far inſtinct would carry it againſt an animal with which it was hitherto unacquainted. At firſt it appeared aſtoniſhed and angry; its hair became erect; in an inſtant, it ſlipped behind the reptile, and, with wonderful ſwiftneſs and agility, leaped on its head, which it ſeized, and cruſhed with its teeth. This firſt regale ſeemed to have awakened its

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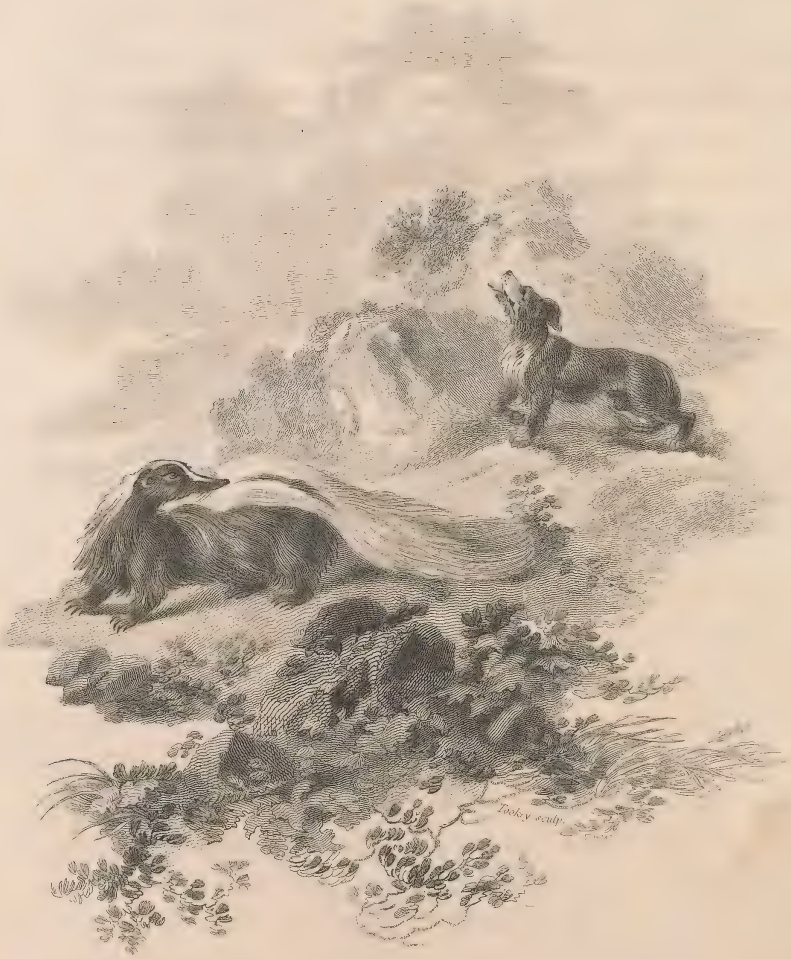
eſſays, which he publiſhed from the German of Dr. Girtanner, where the curious reader will find a ſatisfactory account of its mode of operating. It has ſince been ſtrongly recommended, and ſupported by ſome remarkable caſes, in an eſſay, written by John Williams, eſq. and publiſhed with other valuable tracts, in a late work, entitled, Diſſertations, &c. relating to the Hiſtory and Science of Aſia, vol. ii, p. 222. As oil is a common remedy, in ſuch caſes, it is proper to obſerve, that it ſhould never be adminiſtered with the cauſtic volatile alkali, as it not only retards, but even prevents, its operation; and, under all circumſtances, the internal uſe of it does more harm than good.

natural propenſity for carnage, which had not before ſhewed itſelf: the poultry now no longer eſcaped unnoticed, and from this period, he never failed to take every opportunity of ſeizing them and ſucking their blood."

The Ichneumon has a ſoft, ſmall, murmuring voice, which it never exerts, unleſs it is ſtruck or irritated.

Theſe animals are found in great plenty in all the ſouthern parts of Aſia, but more particularly in Egypt. They are alſo found in Africa about the Cape of Good Hope.


Tookey sculp.

Publiſhed by W. Darton. J. Harvey, & W. Belch. London. Feb.y 13. 1802.

SKUNK

THE SKUNK.

Generic Characters.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp; body ſlender.
Five toes before and five behind.

Synonims.

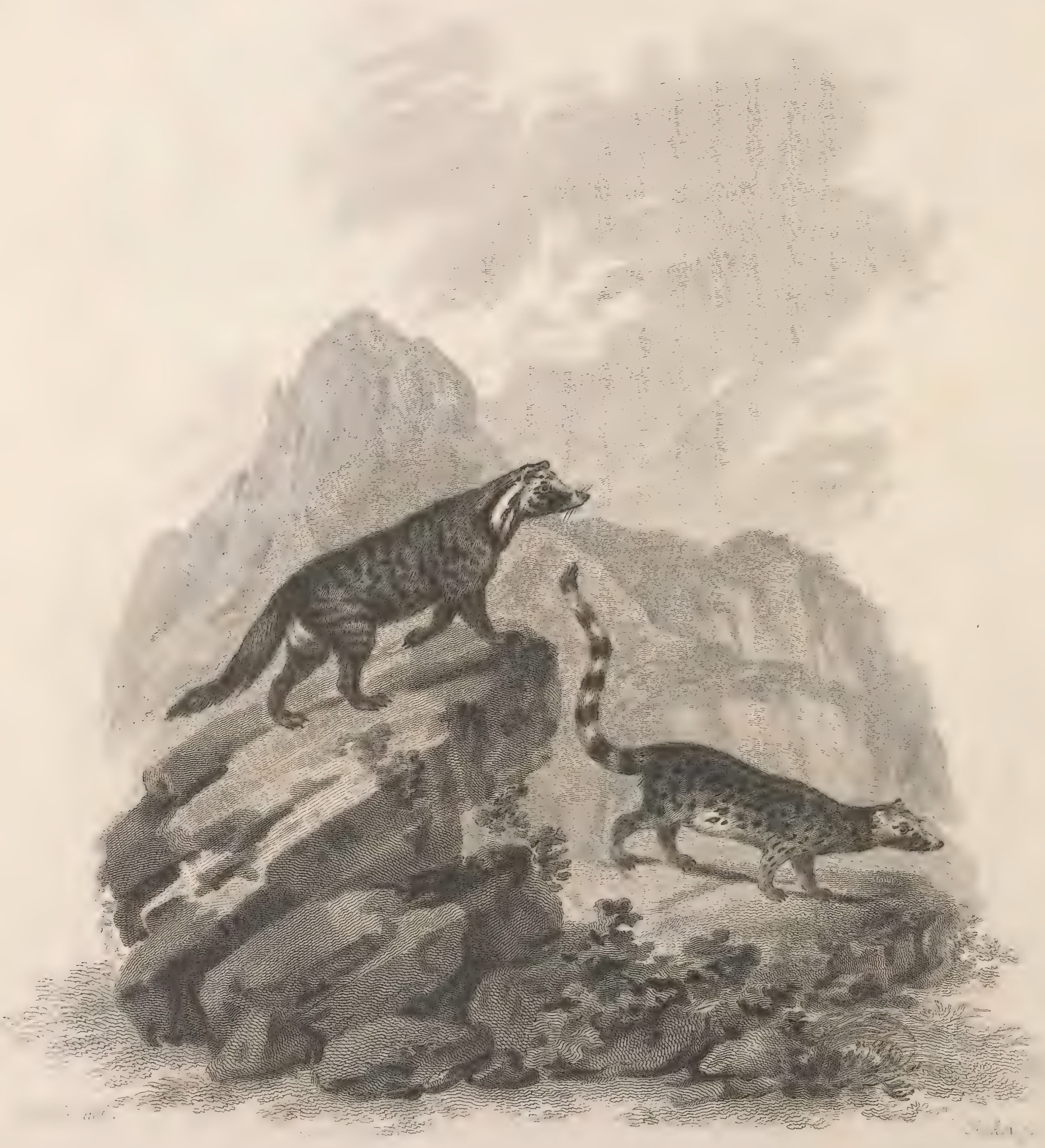
Chinche, *Feuilleè Obſ. Peru,* 1714, p. 272.
Skunk, Fiskatta, *Kalm's Voyage, Forſter's Travels,* i. 273. *tab.* ii.
Joſſelyn's Voyage, 85.
Enfant du Diable, Bete puante, *Charlevoix Nouv. France.* v. 196.
Skunk, *Pennant's Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 65.
Le Chinche, *de Buffon,* xiii. 294. *tab.* xxxix. *Schreber,* cxxi.

THIS animal, known to the natives of Braſil by the name of the Chinche, is about the ſize of a Domeſtic Cat; its noſe is long and ſlender, and extends a conſiderable way beyond the lower jaw; its ears are ſhort and rounded; a white ſtripe is drawn from the noſe over the forehead, and the upper part of the neck, till it is interſected by a black line, that commences at the tail and aſcends towards the middle of the back, which would otherwiſe be entirely white: its belly and legs are black; its tail, abounding with long, coarſe hair, is generally black; ſometimes, however, it is fringed with white at the extremity: and it has been deſcribed by ſome naturaliſts as being perfectly white. The nails on each of the feet are extremely long, like thoſe on the fore feet of a Badger.

The Skunk, like the Stifling, the Conepate, and the Zorilla, is remarkable for a fœtid, ſuffocating vapour, which it emits from behind, as its beſt means of defence, when frightened, attacked, or purſued. The ſtench of this effluvia is ſo intolerable, that infected clothes are ſaid to retain it ſeveral days. Dogs that are not properly bred, are ſo ſtrongly affected by this ſmell as to abandon their purſuit; and even thoſe which, in conſequence of cuſtom and tuition, perſevere in the chace till they have ſlain the fugitive, are obliged to relieve themſelves by thruſting their noſes into the freſh ſoil.

Yet, notwithſtanding this offenſive quality, theſe animals are ſometimes tamed, when they obediently follow their maſter, and are never known to emit this peſtiferous odour, unleſs they are beaten or irritated. They are frequently killed by the Indians, who make purſes of their ſkins, and, after cutting away the noxious glands, regale themſelves on the fleſh, which is ſaid to reſemble, in flavour, that of a young Pig.

The Skunk is an inhabitant of Peru, and is found in North America, as far as Canada.



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CIVET CAT & GENET

THE CIVET CAT.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting teeth, and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp, body ſlender.
Five toes on each foot.

SYNONIMS.

ZIBETTUS, *Caii Opus*, 43.
FELIS ZIBETTUS, *Geſner Quad.* 837.
ANIMA ZIBETHICUM, *Hernandez Mex.* 580, 581.
CIVET CAT, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 178.
LA CIVETTE, *de Buffon*, ix. 299. *tab.* xxxiv.
MELES FASCIIS ET MACULIS ALBIS NIGRIS ET RUFESCENTIBUS VARIEGATA, *Briſſon Quad.* 186.
COATI CIVETTA VULGO, *Klein Quad.* 73.
VIVERRA ZIBETHA, *Linn. Syſt.* 65.

THE Civet Cat bears a ſtrong reſemblance to animals of the Weaſel kind in many particulars, but the noſe and tail are more extended, and the animal is larger. Its length, from the noſe to the tail, is about two feet three inches; the tail is fourteen inches long; the body is rather thick in proportion to the ſize of the animal. The ears are rounded; the eyes ſky-blue; the noſe ſharp, and black at the tip; the front of the face and ſome part of the ſides of the neck are of a yellowiſh white; the ſides of the face, as alſo the chin, breaſt, legs, and feet, are black: the ſides and back are of a yellowiſh aſh-colour, beautifully marked with rows of large duſky ſpots: the hair, in general, is coarſe; that on the top of the body particularly ſo, and longer than the reſt, ſtanding up like a mane: the tail varies in colour, being ſometimes all black, and ſometimes ſpotted near the baſe. The whole body is covered with two kinds of hair, one of which is ſhort, ſoft, and of a woolly contexture, and a greyiſh brown colour; the other is much longer, and barred or varied with white, black, and reddiſh brown, which occaſions the beautiful ſpotted and banded appearance ſo remarkable in this animal. The general colour of the female is paler than that of the male, and the ſpots are larger. Three black ſtripes, proceeding from each ear and ending at the throat and ſhoulders, add greatly to its beauty. The mouth is adorned with whiſkers.

The teeth of the Civet are ſharp and ſtrong, though its claws are weak. It is active and nimble, jumping like a Cat, and running very ſwiftly. It feeds on ſmall animals and birds, which it takes by ſurpriſe; and will ſometimes commit depredations on the poultry in the farm yard. As its eyes ſhine in the dark, it is probable that it ſees well by night, particularly as that is the time when it is moſt active.

The Civet inhabits India, the Philippine Iſles, Guinea, Æthiopia, and Madagaſcar; where it is very prolific, but is never known to breed in more temperate regions, although it will live in them, and appear in perfect health, producing its perfume in great abundance. The Dutch know this, and keep numbers of them alive at Amſterdam, on purpoſe to collect the civet they produce; the quantity of which always bears proportion to the quality of the nouriſhment the animal takes, and the appetite with which it eats it. Its favourite food conſiſts of boiled fleſh, rice, eggs, birds, ſmall animals, and eſpecially fiſh; and, in order to preſerve it in a good ſtate of health, its appetite ſhould be excited by variety. Though it drinks ſeldom, it diſcharges its urine frequently.

The civet which is procured at Amſterdam is leſs adulterated, and therefore held in higher eſtimation, than that which comes from India or the Levant. To facilitate the collecting this perfume, the animal is put into a long cage, ſo narrow that it cannot turn itſelf: the cage being opened by a door at the hinder part, the creature is drawn backwards by the tail, and held ſecurely, whilſt a ſmall ſpoon, or ſpatula, is introduced, through an orifice ſituated under the tail, into the pouch containing the perfume, which is carefully ſcraped, and the contents of it are put into a proper veſſel. This operation may be performed two or three times a week; and it is remarked, that the animal produces moſt after having been irritated. This perfume is ſo ſtrong, that it infects every part of its body, and even the hair and ſkin, which retain the ſmell for a long time after they have been ſeparated from it. If a perſon be ſhut up in the ſame apartment with it, it is almoſt inſupportable.

Though the Civet is naturally ſavage, it is capable of being tamed, and rendered tolerably familiar. Its voice is ſtronger than that of a Cat, and ſomewhat reſembles the cry of an enraged Dog.

The general value of civet in Holland is about fifty ſhillings per ounce; but, like all other objects of taſte and faſhion, its price varies. It ſhould be choſen new, of a good conſiſtence, whitiſh colour, and a ſtrong, diſagreeable ſmell. This perfume is much more grateful than muſk, to which it bears ſome reſemblance. It formerly found its way into phyſicians' preſcriptions, but is now quite diſcontinued as a medicine.

THE GENET.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting teeth, and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Noſe ſharp, body ſlender.
Five toes on each foot.

SYNONIMS.

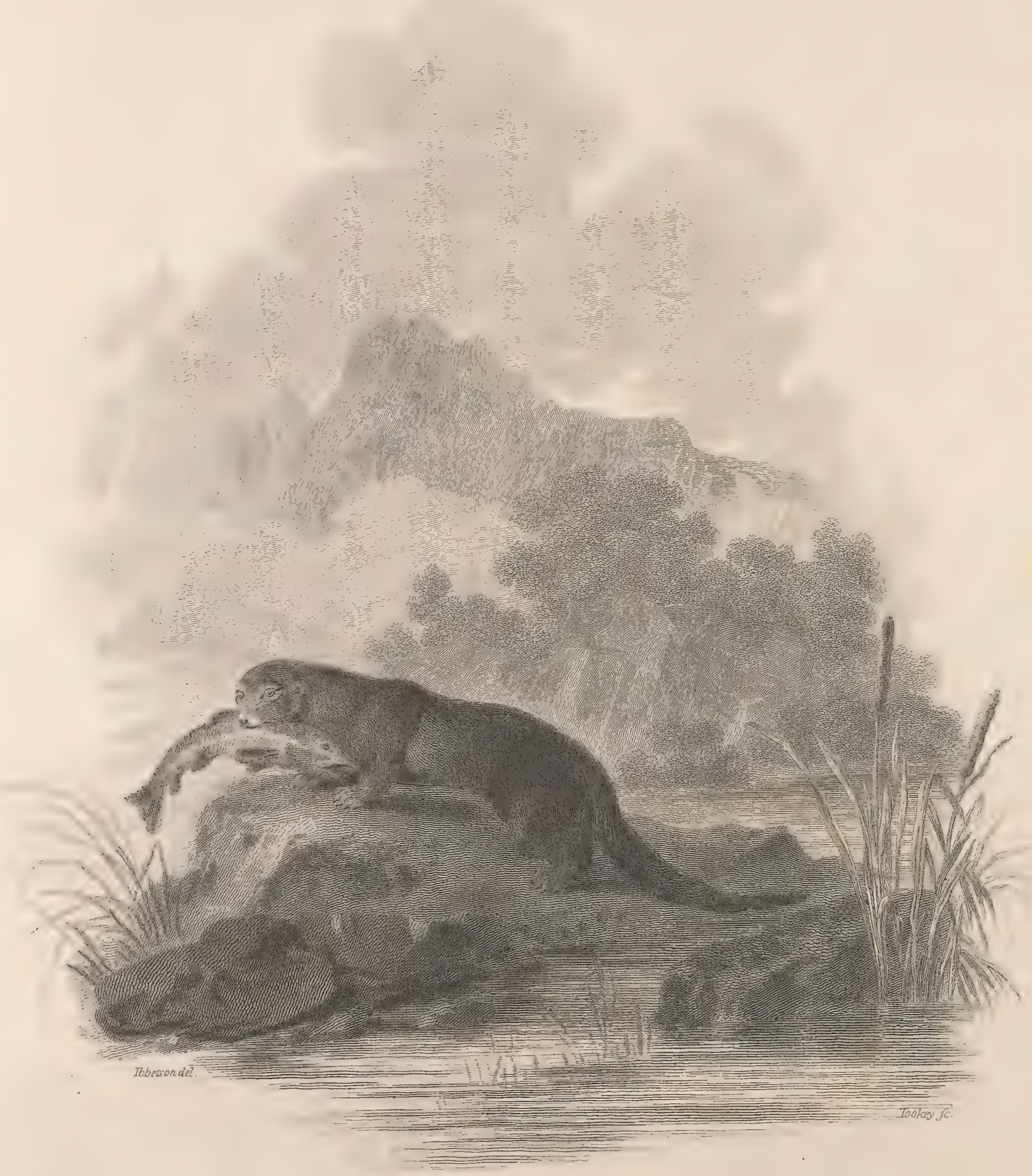
LA GENETTE, *Belon Obſ.* 74. *de Buffon,* ix. 343. *tab.* xxxvi.
GENETHA, *Geſner Quad.* 549, 550.
COATI, GINETTA HISPANIS, *Klein Quad.* 73.
MUSTELA CAUDA EX ANNULIS ALTERNATIM ALBIDIS AT NIGRIS VARIEGATA, *Briſſon Quad.* 186.
VIVERRA GENETTA, *Linn. Syſt.* 65.

THE body of the Genet is about eighteen inches long, the tail ten. The head is long and ſlender, ending in a ſharp noſe like the Civet, but the ears are more pointed. The body is clothed with two kinds of hair, the longeſt of which is about half an inch, and, like the Civet, poſſeſſes the variety of colour, from which the ſpots and marks are formed. The colour of this animal is a tawny red, ſpotted with black; theſe ſpots are diſtinct and ſeparate on the ſides, but unite together on the back, ſo as to form a black line or lines, which extend the whole length of the animal. The tail is beautifully annulated with tawny and black alternately. The feet are black. The Genet, like the reſt of its family, is furniſhed with glands under its tail, which ſecrete a kind of perfume, ſomewhat reſembling civet, but the ſmell of it is fainter, and it ſoon evaporates; theſe glands open rather differently from thoſe of other animals of its kind.

THE GENET.

The Genet has a ſtrong appetite for petty carnage, which renders it a very uſeful animal for deſtroying Rats, Mice, &c. in houſes; as it is eaſily domeſticated, and is a harmleſs and inoffenſive creature, theſe qualities added to its exceſſive elegant and beautiful figure, and the value of its fur, render it a proper object of that care and attention, whereby it would become a uſeful addition to our ſtock of domeſtic quadrupeds. Belon aſſures us that he ſaw ſome at Conſtantinople, which were as tame as Cats, and kept the houſes quite clear of Rats and Mice, who were driven from them by their ſmell. Upon the whole, it is a moſt beautiful, cleanly, and induſtrious little animal; is very active in purſuit of its prey, and mild and gentle in its manners.

It is found in Syria, Spain, and Turkey, frequents the banks of rivers, and avoids mountainous dry places.


Ibbetson del.
Tookey ſc.

Publiſhed by W.Darton J.Harvey & W.Belch London, July 4th 1800.

OTTER.

THE GREATER OTTER.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Six cutting and two canine teeth in each jaw.

Five toes on each foot; each toe connected by a ſtrong web.

SYNONIMS.

LUTRA, *Geſner Quad.* 687. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 187.
MUSTELA LUTRA, *Linn. Syſt.* 66.
UTTER, *Faun Suec.* No. 12.
WYDRA, *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 221.
LE LOUTRE, *de Buffon*, vii. 134. *tab.* xi.
OTTER, *Brit. Zool.* i. 67.

THE Otter ſeems to conſtitute the link of gradation, in the great chain of nature, between terreſtrial and aquatic animals; reſembling the former in its ſhape, and the latter in being able to live for a conſiderable ſpace of time under water, and in being furniſhed with membranes, like fins, between the toes, which enable it to ſwim with ſuch rapidity, that it can overtake fiſhes in their own element.

The general ſhape of the Otter ſomewhat reſembles that of an overgrown Weaſel, being, like that animal, long and ſlender. Its ſkin is covered with very ſoft hair, which is generally brown; but ſubject to ſome varieties in this reſpect, depending, perhaps, on climate. It is uſually two feet in length, from the tip of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail; the head and noſe are broad and flat; the mouth ſomewhat reſembles that of a fiſh; the eyes are ſmall and brilliant, and placed nearer the noſe than is uſual in the generality of quadrupeds; the neck is ſhort, and as thick as the head; the body long; the tail broad at the inſertion, but tapers off to a point at the end; the legs are remarkably ſhort, ſtrong, broad, and muſcular. The joints are ſo looſely articulated, that the animal is enabled to bend them back, and bring them on a line with the body, ſo as to make them perform the office of fins. Each foot is furniſhed with five toes, which are connected by ſtrong and broad webs, like thoſe of water-fowl. This peculiar conſtruction of the legs and feet is admirably well adapted to the purpoſe of ſwimming; for, by taking ſhort ſtrokes, they make them oftener and with greater velocity.

The Otter is a very voracious animal, and well known by the damage it does to fiſh-ponds, &c. It is always found by the ſides of lakes and rivers, but more particularly the former, as being more commodious for catching its prey; for the bulk of its body giving the current of water greater power of reſiſtance againſt it, than it has againſt the fiſhes, which are the object of its purſuit, if it hunts againſt the ſtream, it ſwims too ſlow; and if with the ſtream, it overſhoots its prey. When it fixes its reſidence in rivers, it is always obſerved to purſue its prey in a direction oppoſite to that of the current. It deſtroys much more fiſh than it devours, and has been known to ſpoil a pond in a few nights. But they do the greateſt damage to the nets of fiſhermen, which they never fail to gnaw and tear in pieces, if once entangled in them.

The Otter catches its prey in two very different manners: one is by purſuing it from the bottom upwards; the other is, by hunting it into ſome little corner of the pond, and there ſeizing it. The conformation of its lungs, which are proportionably longer than in moſt other quadrupeds, is well adapted to the former mode of purſuit, as it is thereby enabled to continue for a conſiderable time under water without inconvenience; and whatever fiſh happens then to paſs over the place, becomes, infallibly, its prey; for, the eyes of fiſhes being placed ſo as not to ſee under them, the Otter attacks them by ſurpriſe from below, and ſeizing them by the belly, drags its prey on ſhore, where it often leaves it untouched, to continue the purſuit for hours together. The other method is confined to lakes and ponds, where there is no current, and is only practiſed on the ſmaller fiſhes; for it is impoſſible to force the large ones from the deep water.

It is thus that the Otter amuſes and ſupports itſelf during the ſummer months, and eaſily procures a ſupply of proviſions, far exceeding its actual wants; inſomuch that the edges of the lakes it frequents are infected by the putrid remains of half-conſumed fiſh; the Otter never eating farther than the vent of the fiſh; but, when the ſeverity of the winter has frozen over the ponds and lakes, and the heavy falls of rain have increaſed the currents of the rivers into rapid torrents, the Otter is often much embaraſſed to procure a maintenance for itſelf, and is reduced to the neceſſity of eating graſs, leaves, weeds, and even the bark of trees. It then leaves its watery abodes, to prey on Rats, inſects, and even Sheep: it is ſatisfied with much leſs food, during this inclement ſeaſon, than in ſummer; for, though it does not become quite torpid, like the Dormouſe and ſome other animals, yet it keeps much more within its retreat, which is generally the hollow of ſome bank, worn away by the water. In this place it often forms a paſſage, which extends for ſeveral yards along the edge of the water, and has an opening at each end, through one of which it eſcapes, when attacked at the other.

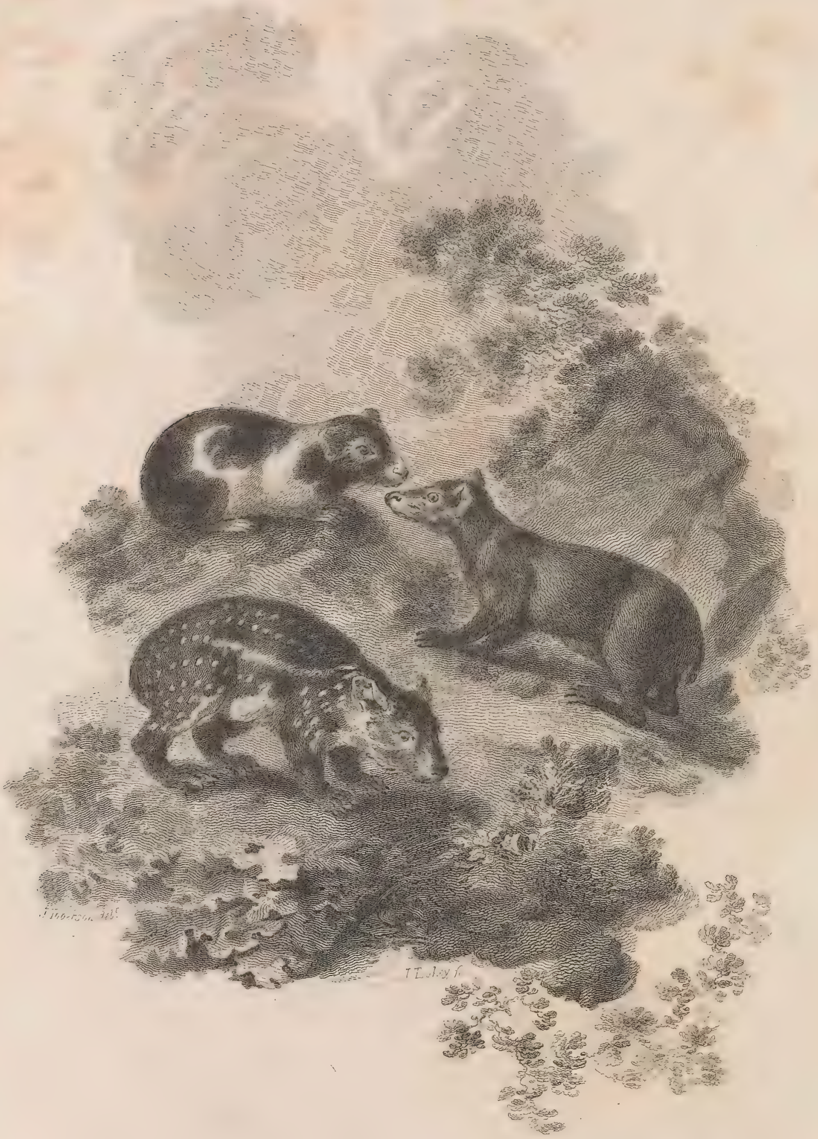
The Count de Buffon ſays, that, in France, the Otter couples in winter, and brings forth its young in the ſpring. However true that may be in France, it is certainly not ſo with reſpect to this country; as the young never make their appearance till the latter end of ſummer. The account given by Mr. Lots, of the Academy of Stockholm, ſeems nearer the truth, who aſſures us, that it couples about the middle of ſummer, and, at the end of nine weeks, brings forth three or four young ones. The obſervations made by that gentleman, on this ſubject, appear, to be ſo accurate and well related, and ſo ſtrongly confirmed by the perſonal knowledge of the late Dr. Goldſmith, that we ſhall not heſitate to cloſe this account with a tranſcript from this ingenious eſſay.

"In the rivers and the lakes frequented by the Otter, the bottom is generally ſtony and uneven, with many trunks of trees, and long roots ſtretching underneath the water. The ſhore alſo is hollow, and ſcooped inward by the waves. Theſe are the places the Otter chiefly chuſes for its retreat; and there is ſcarcely a ſtone which does not bear the mark of its reſidence, as upon them its excrements are always voided. It is chiefly by this mark that its lurking places are known, as well as by the quantity of dead fiſh found lying here and there upon the banks of the water. To take the old ones alive is no eaſy taſk, as they are extremely fierce, and there are few Dogs that will dare to encounter them. They bite with great ſeverity, and never let go their hold, when they have once faſtened. The beſt way, therefore, is to ſhoot them at once, as they never will be thoroughly tamed; and, if kept for the purpoſes of fiſhing, are always apt to take the firſt opportunity of eſcaping. But the young ones may be more eaſily taken, and converted to very uſeful purpoſes. The Otter brings forth its yonng generally under the hollow banks, upon a bed of ruſhes, flags, or ſuch weeds as the place affords it in greateſt quantities. I ſee in the Britiſh Zoology a deſcription of its habitation, where the naturaliſt obſerves, ‘that it burrows under ground, on the banks of ſome river or lake, and always makes the entrance of its hole under water, then works up to the ſurface of the earth, and there makes a minute orifice for the admiſſion of the air; and this little air-hole is often found in the middle of ſome thicket.’ In ſome places this may be true, but I never obſerved any ſuch contrivance; the retreat, indeed, was always at the edge of the water, but it was only ſheltered by ſome impending bank, and the Otter itſelf ſeemed to have but a ſmall ſhare in its formation. But, be this as it may, the young ones are always found at the edge of the water; and, if under the protection of the dam, ſhe teaches them inſtantly to plunge, like herſelf, into the deep, and eſcape among the ruſhes or weeds that fringe the ſtream. At ſuch times, therefore, it is very difficult to take them; for, be they ever ſo young, they ſwim with great rapidity, and in ſuch a manner that no part of them is ſeen above water, except the tip of the noſe. It is only when the dam is abſent that they can be taken; and in ſome places there are Dogs purpoſely trained for diſcovering their retreats. Whenever the Dog comes to the place, he ſoon, by his barking, ſhows that the Otter is there; which, if it be an old one, inſtantly plunges into the water, and the young all follow. But if the old one be abſent, they continue terrified, and will not venture forth but under her guidance and protection. In this manner they are ſecured and taken home alive, where they are carefully fed with ſmall fiſh and water. In proportion, however, as they gain ſtrength, they have milk mixed with their food, the quantity of their fiſh proviſion is retrenched, and that of vegetables is increaſed, until at length they are fed wholly upon bread, which perfectly agrees with their conſtitution. The manner of training them up, to hunt for fiſh, requires not only aſſiduity, but patience; however, their activity and uſe, when taught, amply repay the trouble of teaching; and, perhaps, no other animal is more beneficial to its maſter. The uſual way is, firſt to teach them to fetch, as Dogs are inſtructed; but, as they have not the ſame docility, ſo it requires more art and experience to teach them. It is uſually performed, by accuſtoming them to take a truſs, ſtuffed with wool, of the ſhape of a fiſh, and made of leather, in their mouths, and to drop it at the word of command; to run after it, when thrown forward, and to bring it to their maſter. From this they proceed to real fiſh, which are thrown dead into the water, and which they are taught to fetch from thence. From the dead they proceed to the living, till at laſt the animal is perfectly inſtructed in the whole art of fiſhing. An Otter, thus taught, is a very valuable animal, and will catch fiſh enough to ſuſtain not only itſelf but a whole family. I have ſeen one of theſe go to a gentleman's pond, at the word of command, drive up the fiſh into a corner, and, ſeizing the largeſt of the whole, bring it off, in its mouth, to its maſter (A.")

The Otter is found in all parts of Europe, north and north-eaſt of Aſia (A), even as far as Kamtſchatka: it abounds in North America, particularly in Canada, where its fur is moſt valuable.

(A) Journal Etranger, Juin. 1755, p. 14, quoted by Goldsmith.

(B) Pennant.


J Ibbetson del.
J Lakey f.

Publiſhed by W.Darton, J.Harvey & W.Belch, London June 21st 1801.

GUINEA PIG.

LONG-NOSED CAVY.

SPOTTED CAVY.

THE GUINEA PIG.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes on the fore-feet, three behind.
Ears ſhort.
No tail, or a very ſhort one.

Synonims.

Cuniculus vel Porcellus Indicus, *Geſner Quad.* 367.
Mus Porcellus, *Linn. Syſt.* 79.
Mus seu Cuniculus Americanus, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 223.
Cavia Cobaia, *Marcgrave Braſil*, 224. *Piſo Braſil*, 102. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 223. *Klein Quad.* 49.
Mus Pharaonis, Tatu pilosus, *Klein Quad.* 49.
Cuniculus ecaudatus, *Briſſon Quad.* 102.
Restless Cavy, *Pennant's Syn. Quad.* 176.
Le Cochon d'Inde, *de Buffon*, viii. 1. *tab.* i.

THIS little, reſtleſs animal has the good fortune to enjoy univerſal admiration, without appearing to poſſeſs any one good quality which entitles him to it. Helpleſs and inoffenſive in its nature, it ſcarcely poſſeſſes courage ſufficient to defend itſelf from the attacks of a Mouſe; but its animoſities againſt thoſe of its own ſpecies are violent and obſtinate: theſe jealouſies, which are very apparent, frequently ariſe from a deſire of poſſeſſing the warmeſt place, or the moſt agreeable food.

It is matter of wonder, that an animal, poſſeſſing neither ſtrength, ſwiftneſs, nor even the natural inſtincts of ſelf-preſervation, ſo obſervable in moſt other creatures, ſhould be able to protect itſelf, in its wild ſtate, from the attacks of beaſts and birds of prey; and that the ſpecies does not become extinct; which muſt, in many inſtances, be the caſe, did not Providence take care to maintain and continue every created ſpecies.

Though the Guinea Pig is a native of the warmer climates, it has been ſo long domeſticated in Britain, and ſo widely diffuſed elſewhere, that it is now ſo univerſally known, as to render a very particular deſcription of it unneceſſary; we ſhall, therefore, only obſerve, that it is not ſo large as the Rabbit; its upper lip is partially divided; its ears large and round; its legs very ſhort; it has four toes on the fore feet, and but three on the hinder ones; and it has no tail. Theſe little animals vary much in colour; ſome are black, ſome white, and ſome barred with large blotches of black, white, and orange colour. They appear to be totally void of attachment even to their own young, which they will ſuffer to be taken from them, and even devoured, as ſoon as they are born, without diſcovering the leaſt concern or reluctance, or attempting to make the ſmalleſt reſiſtance.

The Guinea Pig moves like the Rabbit, though much ſlower; when it walks, it lengthens its body, and its feet are then moſt conſpicuous; and, when at reſt, it contracts itſelf into a heap. When kept in a room, it ſeldom croſſes the floor, but creeps round by the wall. It ſtrokes its head with its fore feet, like the Rabbit, and ſits on its hind legs like that animal. The male uſually obliges the female to go before him, and follows exactly in her footſteps. It is fond of dark and intricate retreats, where it ſleeps with its companion, and ſeldom ventures out when danger is nigh. When about to quit its retreat, it ſprings forward to its entrance, where it ſtops to liſten and look round, and if no danger is near, it ſallies forth in ſearch of food: but, on the leaſt alarm, it inſtantly runs back to its hiding place. Their manner of fighting is equally ſingular and ridiculous: one of them ſeizes the neck of its antagoniſt with its teeth, and attempts to tear the hair from it; mean time the other turns its poſteriors to its enemy, kicks up behind, like a Horſe, and, by way of retaliation, ſcratches the ſides of its opponent with its hinder claws, ſo that they are frequently both covered with blood.

The Guinea Pig repoſes flat on its belly, and, like the Dog, turns itſelf round ſeveral times, before it lies down, to fix on a convenient ſituation. It ſleeps with its eyes half open, and is extremely wakeful. The male and female never ſleep at the ſame time, but each by turns keeps watch while the other takes its repoſe.

This animal delights ſo much in cleanlineſs, that, if the young ones happen, by accident, to be ſoiled or dirtied, the female takes ſuch a diſlike to them, that ſhe will never after ſuffer them to approach her. Indeed, the whole employment of both male and female ſeems to conſiſt in ſmoothing each other's hair, which office, when they have mutually performed, they both turn their attention to their young ones, whoſe hair they take particular care to keep ſmooth and even, and bite them, if they are refractory.

The voice of the Guinea Pig greatly reſembles the grunting of a ſmall Pig, which circumſtance probably gave riſe to its name; and the notes, which it utters when in pain, are very ſhrill and piercing.

The female goes with young about five weeks, and uſually produces three or four at a birth, and ſometimes as many as twelve, which ſhe ſuckles for twelve or fifteen days, and then leaves them to ſhift for themſelves, which, by that time they are well qualified to do. The dam, though only furniſhed with two teats, abundantly ſupplies her offspring with milk; at the ſame time, ſhe appears ſo indifferent about them, that ſhe cannot diſtinguiſh her own progeny from another's.

The Guinea Pig feeds on vegetables of all kinds, but ſeems to give the preference to parſley and carrot tops. If its food is green vegetables, it never drinks; but if it is fed on bran, bread, grains, or any dry ſubſtance, it will drink both water and milk, which it laps with its tongue like a Cat.

This animal is a native of Braſil.

THE SPOTTED CAVY.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Generally four toes on the fore feet, three behind.
Ears ſhort.
No tail, or a very ſhort one.

Synonims.

Mus Paca, *Linn. Syſt.* 81.
Cuniculus caudatus, *Briſſon Quad.* 99.
Cuniculus major, Paca, *Marcgrave Braſil, Piſo Braſil,* 101.
de Laet, 484.
Cavia Paca, *Klein Quad.* 50.
Mus Brasiliensis magnus, Paca dictus, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 226.
Le Paca, *de Buffon,* x. 269. *tab.* xliii.

THE Spotted Cavy bears ſome reſemblance to the Guinea-Pig, except that it ſtands higher on its legs. It is about ten inches long; the head round, and rather large in proportion to the ſize of the body; the noſe broad, and of a blackiſh colour; the eyes large, and prominent; the ears are broad, and almoſt without hair: the neck is thick; the hair coarſe and ſhort, and in general of a duſky-brown colour, elegantly marked on the ſides with whitiſh-grey ſpots, diſpoſed in lines extending from the head to the tail: the belly is white. In ſome individuals, which are perhaps young ones, the ſides and ſpots are of a pale yellow: there are five toes on each foot: the tail is a mere rudiment. This little animal does not ſit up to eat, as moſt of this genus do, but feeds on the ground, like a Pig, and makes a grunting noiſe, like that creature, more eſpecially when irritated, when it likewiſe expreſſes its anger by chattering its teeth. It feeds on all ſorts of grain, roots, fruit, and almoſt all kinds of vegetables: it frequents fenny places and the banks of rivers, where it lives concealed in burrows under ground: it grows very fat, and is accordingly much ſought after. As theſe animals ſeldom quit their hole during the day, they are uſually diſcovered by Dogs, trained for the purpoſe, who point out their lurking places, over which the hunter digs, and when he comes near the animal, transfixes it with a knife, to prevent its eſcape. When preſſed hard, they will bite dreadfully, and make a deſperate defence. Man is not their only enemy: every beaſt and bird of prey watches their motions, and is ſure to ſeize them, if they ſtray from home. Thus attacked on all ſides, the ſpecies would ſoon become extinct, were not the animal ſo prolific, that the diminution, if any, is imperceptible.

This animal inhabits Braſil and Guiana.

THE LONG-NOSED CAVY.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes on the fore feet, three behind.
Ears ſhort.
No tail, or a very ſhort one.

Synonims.

Aguti vel Acuti, *Marcgrave Braſil*, 224. *Piſo Braſil*, 102.
Aguti ou Agoutis, *de Laet*. 484. *Rochefort Antilles*, i. 287.
Mus Aguti, *Linn. Syſt.* 80.
Cavia Aguti, *Klein Quad.* 50.
Mus Sylvestris Aguti, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 226.
Cuniculus caudatus, *Briſſon Quad.* 98.
Cuniculus omnium vulgatissimus, Aguti vulgo, *Barrere France Æquin*, 153.
L'Agouti, *de Buffon*, viii. 375. *tab.* 1.
Small Indian Coney, *Brown's Jamaica*, 484.
Long-Nosed Rabbit, *Wafer's Voy. in Dampier*, iii. 401.

THIS animal is about the ſize of a Rabbit: its noſe is long; the upper lip is divided in the middle, like the upper lip of the Hare; the ears are ſhort and round; the eyes black and lively; the legs almoſt deſtitute of hair, and very ſlender and black; the tail ſhort and without hair: it has four toes on the fore feet, and three on the hinder ones; its hair is harſh and ſtiff, like that of a ſucking Pig; the colour of the hair on the body is a mixture of red, brown, and black; that which covers the rump is of a bright orange, and the belly is yellow.

This animal is very numerous in the ſouthern parts of America, and has been called by ſome the Rabbit or Hare of that continent, from a ſuppoſed reſemblance to one or both of thoſe animals: it differs, however, very eſſentially from them in many particulars.

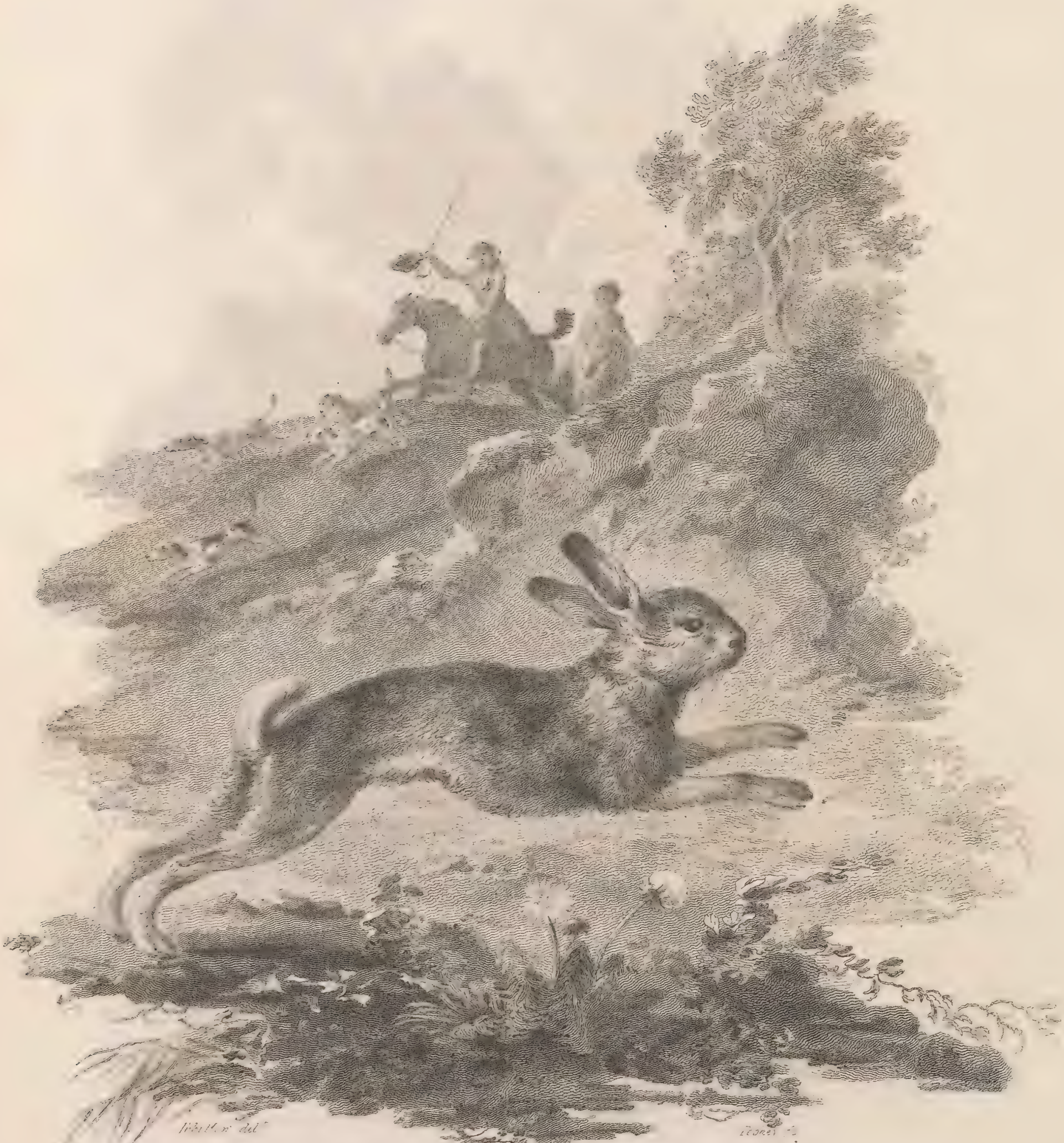
This little creature equals the Hog in voracity: every thing that is eatable comes alike to its inſatiable appetite; and when it has eaten till it can eat no longer, it hides the remainder for a future meal. It ſeems to delight in gnawing and tearing every thing within its reach. When provoked, it erects the hair on its back, and ſtrikes the ground violently with its hinder feet, like the Rabbit. It lives in cavities, which it digs for itſelf in hollow trees. Though its appetite is general, it gives the preference to yams, potatoes, and fruits. It ſits on its hind legs to eat, like the Squirrel, and conveys the food to its mouth with its fore paws. Like the Hare or Rabbit, it runs ſwiftly on the plain ground or up a hill, but is in danger of falling on a deſcent, on account of the length of its hinder feet. Its ſight and hearing are both excellent, and, if whiſtled to, it will ſtop to liſten to the ſound. The fleſh is tolerable food, provided it be fat and well fed; but it is rather tough, and has a peculiar flavour. It is hunted with Dogs, and, if it happens to get into a place covered with ſugar-canes, is eaſily taken, from the embarraſſment it meets with; but, if it takes to the open plain, it runs freely before the Dogs, till it has gained it hole, from which nothing can force it but filling the hole with ſmoke. During this proceſs, the poor little creature frequently ſends forth plaintive cries, but ſeldom leaves the hole till the laſt extremity, when it once more bolts out, and depends on its ſpeed for ſafety. If the Dogs come up with it, and there is no poſſibility of making good a retreat, it boldly faces its purſuers, and, ſtanding on its hind feet, erects the hair on its back, and defends itſelf very gallantly. It will ſometimes bite the legs of thoſe who attempt to catch it, and always takes out the piece on which it fixes its teeth (A). When provoked, it makes a

(A) Raii Syn.

noiſe like a young Pig. It is eaſily tamed, if taken young, and becomes very familiar. The female ſelects a retired place to bring forth her young, where ſhe conſtructs a bed of hay and leaves, and uſually brings two at a time, which ſoon arrive at maturity. She breeds two or three times in the year; and often removes her young for conveniency or greater ſecurity.

The Long-noſed Cavy having been very generally, though erroneouſly, called by travellers, the Rabbit or Hare of the New Continent, it may not be amiſs to point out a few particulars in which it either reſembles or differs from thoſe animals, with which we ſhall conclude this account. It reſembles the Rabbit in ſize and in the form of the head, except that the ears are much ſhorter. Like the Rabbit, the form of its back reſembles an arch; its hind legs are longeſt, and the cutting teeth are exactly alike, as to form and number. On the other hand, it differs from the Rabbit in the ſtructure of its hair, which is not ſoft and downy, but hard and harſh, like that of a young Pig. The tail is likewiſe ſhorter, and entirely without hair. Laſtly, the number of the toes is different, the Cavy having but three on the hinder feet, whereas the Rabbit has five. It differs, likewiſe, very materially from the Rabbit, in its habits and diſpoſitions: ſo that, upon the whole, the ſuppoſed reſemblance ariſes merely from the want of attentive obſervation.

It is found in great abundance in Braſil and Guiana, where, Mr. Buffon ſays, the French dreſs it like a ſucking Pig, and eſteem it excellent food; the Engliſh who reſide there dreſs it like a Hare, with a pudding in the belly.



Ibbetson del.

Jones sc.

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HARE.

THE HARE.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Five toes before, four behind.
Ears long; tail ſhort.

SYNONIMS.

LEPUS, *Plin.* lib. viii. c. 55. *Geſner Quad.* 605.
Raii Syn. Quad. 204.
LEPUS TIMIDUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 77.
LE LIEVRE, *de Buffon,* vi. 246. *tab.* 38.
HASE, *Klein Quad.* 51. *Faun. Suec.* No. 25.
HARE, *Brit. Zool.* 41.

NO animal in the creation furniſhes more ſtriking proofs of the providential care of the great Creator, in the preſervation of his creatures, than this little, helpleſs animal. Its propenſities and habits, as well as the peculiar conformation of its parts, are ſo admirably well adapted for this grand purpoſe, that, without them, the ſpecies muſt ſoon become extinct. Eagerly ſought after by man, as well as by beaſts and birds of prey, and totally incapable of ſelf defence, the race would ſoon be deſtroyed by its numerous enemies, were it not for the means of preſervation and eſcape with which it is ſo amply furniſhed. The Hare owes its chief ſafety to its prevailing paſſion, fear: conſcious of its weak and defenceleſs ſtate, it lives in conſtant alarm and apprehenſion, which, by keeping it lean, fits it the better for eſcaping the impending danger by flight. The ſhape of the ears is admirably well contrived, to collect and convey the moſt diſtant and minute impreſſions of ſounds; they are very long, and formed like the tubes, or trumpets, made uſe of by deaf perſons; and, being flexible in every direction, cannot fail to catch and convey the ſmalleſt vibrations of the air. The eyes are remarkably large and prominent, and well adapted to receive the rays of light in all directions, ſo that the creature has no occaſion to turn its head to either ſide, to gain information of the ſituation of its purſuers. Like many other animals which feed by night, the eyes are furniſhed with a membrana nictitans, which can be drawn over them at pleaſure; and thus the creature is enabled to bear the light of the day, which it could not otherwiſe endure. The comparative length of its hind legs is, likewiſe, of ſingular ſervice to it in peculiar ſituations, particularly in aſcending ſteep and hilly places; and ſo ſenſible is the Hare of this advantage, that, when cloſely purſued, it always ſhapes its courſe towards riſing ground. The Hare is alſo furniſhed with remarkably ſtrong muſcles, whereby it is enabled to ſupport more fatigue than it otherwiſe could. Its general colour is a tawny, reddiſh brown, which frequently ſo nearly reſembles the colour of the land on which it lies, that it is eaſily overlooked: this is another great ſource of its ſafety, and ſo conſcious is the animal of it, that, when cloſely preſſed by the Hounds, it will frequently ſquat behind a clod, and ſuffer the Dogs to run over it, which is no ſooner perceived, than it inſtantly takes a contrary direction, and by this artifice often effects its eſcape.

In northern countries, where the ſeverity of the winter covers the ground with perpetual ſnow, the colour of the Hare is always changed, during that ſeaſon, from brown to white, which renders it leſs viſible to its numerous enemies, by which it would ſoon be deſtroyed, were it not for this providential circumſtance: we ſay providential, becauſe the Hares which inhabit warmer climates are not ſubject to this change of colour during the winter ſeaſon, which ſurely is not the effect of mere chance.

The ſhape, ſize, and general appearance of the Hare are ſo well known, that an accurate deſcription of them ſeems needleſs; we ſhall, therefore, only remark, that the ears are tipped with black; the tail is black above and white underneath; and that the feet are all clothed on the underſide, with long, thick hair, even to the ends of the toes.

The fur of the Hare is generally very full of fleas; and it would ſeem that theſe troubleſome inſects are particularly fond of reſiding in it; for Linnæus tells us, in his account of the animals of Sweden, that the Dalecarlians manufacture a ſort of clothing of this fur, which they call felt; the wearer of which is thereby preſerved from the tormenting attacks of the fleas, which all creep into the garment, and remain there.

The Hare multiplies very faſt; the female breeds three or four times in the year; ſhe goes with young thirty days, and uſually produces from two to four at a litter; ſhe ſuckles them only twenty days, and then leaves them to ſhift for themſelves. It feeds during the night, and remains motionleſs on its form during the day, unleſs it is diſturbed. It lives entirely on vegetables, and gives the preference to the moſt tender blades of graſs, pinks, parſley, and plants which contain a milky juice; it is likewiſe fond of the bark of trees, particularly the birch, which it frequently ſtrips of its bark in the winter.

The hair of this animal is much uſed in the hat manufacture; and as the produce of this country is inſufficient for that purpoſe, great quantities of hare-ſkins are annually imported from Ruſſia and Siberia, and form a very conſiderable article of commerce.

The fleſh of the Hare is accounted a favourite article of food, but the manner of obtaining it, by hunting, where a numerous band of dogs, accompanied by men and horſes, is at once let looſe on the moſt timid and defenceleſs animal in the brute creation; where the poor creature, in its fears, is made to die a thouſand deaths, ſeems ſo incongenial with our ideas of humanity and poliſhed ſociety, as to require our marked diſapprobation. This practice is thus beautifully deſcribed by Thomſon:

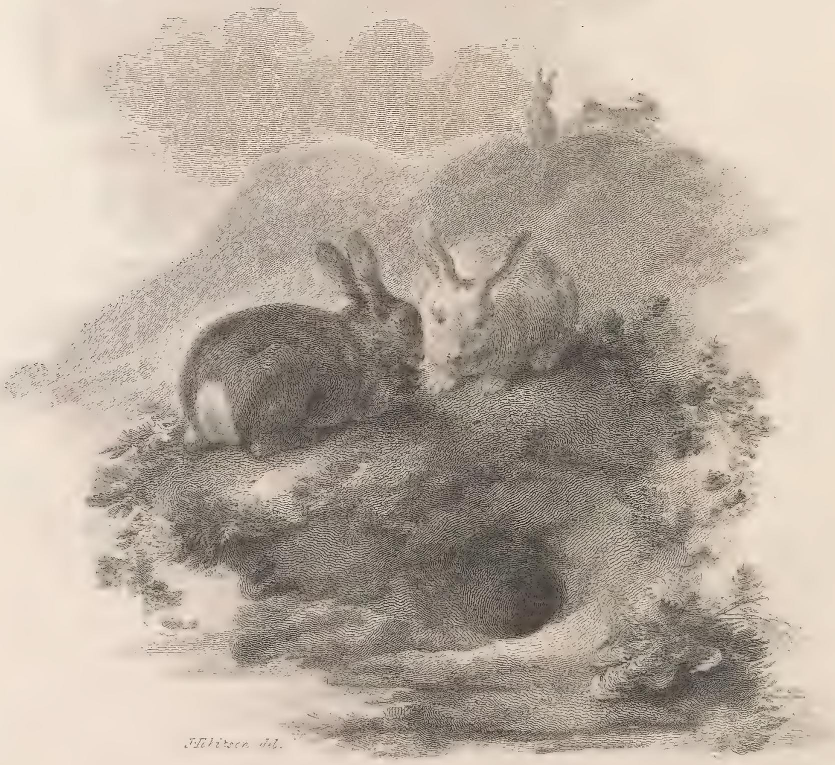
> Vain is her beſt precaution, tho' ſhe ſits
> Conceal'd, with folded ears, unſleeping eyes,
> By Nature rais'd to take th' horizon in,

THE HARE.

And head couch'd cloſe betwixt her hairy feet,
In act to ſpring away. The ſcented dew
Betrays her early labyrinth; and deep,
In ſcatter'd ſullen op'nings, far behind,
With every breeze ſhe hears the coming ſtorm:
But nearer, and more frequent, as it loads
The ſighing gale, ſhe ſprings amaz'd, and all
The ſavage ſoul of Game is up at once:
The pack full-op'ning various; the ſhrill horn
Reſounding from the hills; the neighing ſteed,
Wild for the chaſe; and the loud hunter's ſhout;
O'er a weak, harmleſs, flying creature,
Mix'd in mad tumult and diſcordant joy!

If the fleſh of this animal is become a neceſſary appendage at the tables of the opulent, ſhould it not be obtained in a manner that does leaſt violence to the tender feelings of humanity? Indeed ſhooting, or taking them in traps or ſnares, ſeems leſs exceptionable, though not ſo generally practiſed as the method of hunting with Harriers, or ſmall Hounds; or that of courſing with Greyhounds.

The Hare is found in all parts of Europe, and moſt parts of Aſia and North America.



J. Ibbitson del.

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RABBIT.

THE RABBIT.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Ears long, tail ſhort.
Five toes before, four behind.

SYNONIMS.

CUNICULUS, *Plin.* lib. viii. c. 55. *Geſner Quad.* 362.
LEPUS CUNICULUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 77.
KANIN, *Faun Suec.* No. 26.
LEPUS CAUDATUS, *Briſſon Quad.* 95.
LEPUSCULUS, KANINCHEN, *Klein Quad.* 52.
LE LAPIN, *de Buffon*, vi. 303. tab. l. li.
RABBET, OR CONEY, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 205. *Pennant's Brit. Zool.* i. 90.

THE Rabbit, though not originally a native of Britain, is become ſo completely naturalized, and ſo well and univerſally known, that a particular deſcription of it ſeems unneceſſary. In its external appearance it much reſembles the Hare; but it differs materially from that animal in its habits, and, notwithſtanding their ſimilitude, they cannot be brought to aſſociate, and ſometimes will fight till one of them is diſabled or killed.

That great naturaliſt, Pliny, has judiciouſly remarked, that thoſe animals which are the moſt innocent, and of the greateſt ſervice to man, particularly in the article of food, are generally the moſt prolific: this obſervation is in no inſtance more clearly verified than in the Rabbit: it produces ſeven times in the year, and often brings eight young ones at a birth; on a ſuppoſition, therefore, that this happens conſtantly and regularly during the period of four years, a ſingle pair will, in that time, produce one million two hundred and ſeventy four thouſand, eight hundred and forty: no wonder then, that Spain, a country ſo congenial to their conſtitution, ſhould have been once ſo overrun by them, as to reduce the inhabitants to the neceſſity of ſending to Africa for Ferrets to deſtroy them, as has been already obſerved in the account given of the Ferret. From this amazing diſpoſition to increaſe, we ſhould certainly be overſtocked by them, were they not ſurrounded by a hoſt of enemies, conſiſting of almoſt every beaſt and bird of prey, to whoſe attacks they are unable to make the ſmalleſt reſiſtance; and, indeed, were it not for the ſecurity they find in their burrows, the race would ſoon be extirpated. But their greateſt enemy is man, who, like a falſe friend, appears to take them under his protection, that he may have it in his power to deſtroy them when he pleaſes, for the ſake of their fleſh and ſkin; the former of which every one knows is an elegant article of food, and the hair of the latter is much uſed in the manufacture of hats; the ſkin, with the hair on, is alſo uſed as a ſubſtitute for fur to trim garments; and ſuch parts of the hair as are too coarſe for theſe purpoſes, are often made uſe of as ſtuffing for beds, to ſave the expence of feathers.

To protect them from theſe numerous foes, the Creator, ever watchful over the ſafety of his creatures, has endued them with the inſtinctive faculty, of forming ſubterraneous retreats, which are ſo conſtructed, as to be inacceſſible to any but the ſmaller quadrupeds, and ſecure them entirely from the attacks of birds of prey, which are well known to avoid places impervious to light. They dig theſe burrows with their feet, and often extend them to a conſiderable length, contriving that each burrow is furniſhed with two apertures, which, although at a conſiderable diſtance from each other, always communicate, ſo that, in caſe of an attack, the poor animal has always a door to eſcape at. In theſe burrows it ſpends the day in ſafety, and only comes out morning and evening, to feed.

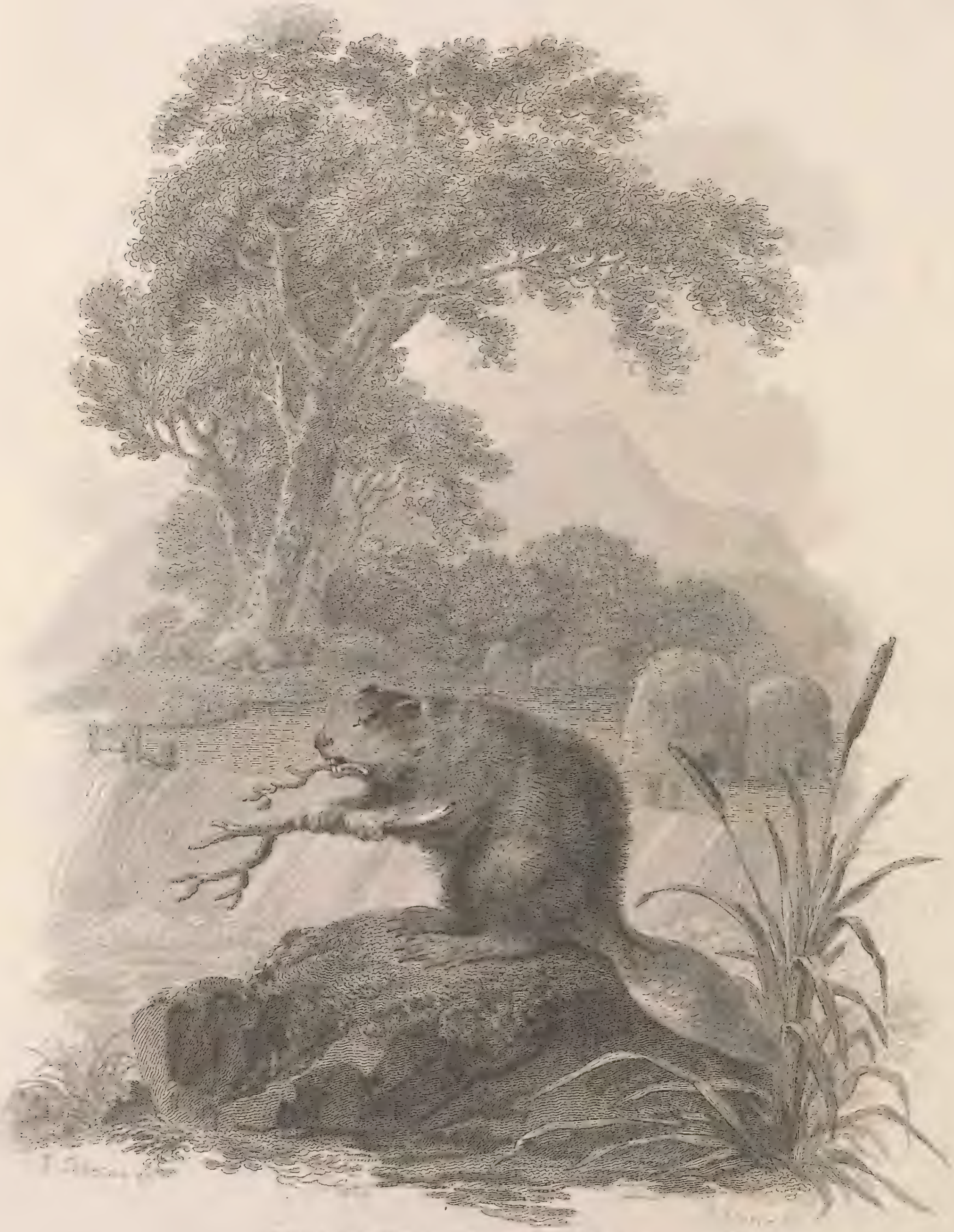
When the female is about to bring forth, ſhe makes choice of a burrow, ſeparate from the male, which ſhe forms very different from the ordinary one, and much more intricate; at the bottom of this ſhe conſtructs a ſpacious apartment, which ſhe lines with down plucked from her own body, and thus forms a warm bed for the reception of her young. Theſe ſhe ſeldom leaves during the two firſt days, unleſs forced by hunger; and then ſhe returns to them with all poſſible expedition. She ſuckles them near ſix weeks, when they are generally fit to come abroad, and are received, with great appearance of affection, by the male, who, though prior to that period he will frequently kill them, ſeems now to acknowledge his offspring, by taking them between his paws, ſmoothing their ſkins, and licking their eyes; each in its turn receiving an equal ſhare of his careſſes.

Wild Rabbits are invariably brown, but, when domeſticated, become, like all other creatures taken under the protection of man, ſubject to almoſt every variety of colour. Pennant ſays, white Rabbits have eyes of a beautiful red colour; but this is not uniformly the caſe. Tame Rabbits are larger than the wild ones, but their fleſh is ſofter, and not ſo high-flavoured.

The Rabbit is ſubject to two diſtempers equally fatal. The moſt common and dangerous of theſe is called the rot. This is brought on by ſuffering them to eat food which is too full of moiſture. Their greens ſhould therefore be always given them dry, and a proper quantity of ſhort hay ſhould be mixed with them. But the beſt food for tame Rabbits is the ſhorteſt and ſweeteſt hay that can be procured; one load of which will maintain two hundred couple for a year: of this ſtock four hundred couple may be yearly conſumed or ſold, and a ſufficient number will remain to keep up the ſtock, and guard againſt accidents: ſo that, reckoning the price of each Rabbit at the very moderate rate of ſixpence, which is conſiderably below the uſual value, the amount of the profits on one year's produce will be twenty pounds, which is conſiderably more than three hundred per cent. excluſive of the ſkins.

They are likewiſe ſubject to a ſort of madneſs: when attacked with this diſorder, they wallow and tumble about, with their heels upwards, and hop in a very ſingular manner. The cauſe of this diſeaſe is not certainly known, but it is generally ſuppoſed to be occaſioned by the rankneſs of their food; though, it is probable, that is not the only cauſe. The uſual method of cure is to keep them low, and ſupply them plentifully with the prickly herb, called tare-thiſtle.

The Rabbit is a very generally diffuſed animal, and capable of exiſting in any climate which is not very cold; but in Sweden, and the northern parts of Europe, it muſt be conſtantly houſed. It is found wild in the temperate and hot parts of Europe, and the hotteſt parts of Aſia and Africa. It is not a native of America, but increaſes greatly in South America.



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BEAVER.

THE BEAVER.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Five toes on each foot.
Tail compreſſed, and covered with ſcales.

SYNONIMS.

Καστωρ, *Ariſt. Hiſt. Ann.* lib. viii. c. 5.
CASTOR FIBER, *Linn. Syſt.* 78.
CASTOR, *Geſner Quad.* 309. *Briſſon Quad.* 90.
FIBER, *Plin.* lib. viii. c. 30.
BAFWER, BIUR, *Faun. Suec.* No. 27.
BIBER, *Klein Quad.* 91.
BOBR, *Rzaczinſki Pol.* 215.
BEAVER, *Brit. Zool.* 1. 70. *tab.* ii. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 209.
LE CASTOR, OU LE BIEVRE, *de Buffon,* viii. 282. *tab.* xxxvi.

THERE is nothing very remarkable in the general external appearance of the Beaver, except that its tail is very broad, flat, and covered with ſcales like a fiſh; and that its hinder feet alone are furniſhed with membranes which connect the toes: in other reſpects, it greatly reſembles a very large Rat. Conſidered as an individual, it does not exhibit any ſtriking inſtinctive qualities; but, on the contrary, is perfectly harmleſs and inoffenſive, and ſeems hardly to poſſeſs cunning enough for its own defence and preſervation. But if we view it living in a ſtate of ſociety with others of its own ſpecies, and uniting its efforts with theirs to the attainment of one great end, combining the important objects of the ſafety, welfare, and maintenance of the family or colony to which it belongs; our wonder and aſtoniſhment will be inſtantly excited, and inſtead of the moſt inactive and unmeaning, we ſhall be led to pronounce it one of the moſt provident, ſagacious, and active animals in the creation.

Few opportunities of obſerving the habits of the Beaver having occurred, to thoſe who know how to make the proper uſe of them, the accounts given of it have in conſequence been various, often contradictory, and always full of the marvellous; which is not at all to be wondered at, when we reflect that the greateſt part of them have been related on the authority of Beaver hunters, whoſe only object being to obtain the animal itſelf, its habits and natural hiſtory could but little concern them.

In this embarraſſed ſituation, ſcarcely knowing what we ought to admit and what reject, we are happy to avail ourſelves of the opportunity offered by a recent account of the Beaver, publiſhed by Captain G. Cartwright (A), who reſided nearly ſixteen years on the Labrador Coaſt, and appears to have taken great pains to acquire a knowledge of this extraordinary animal. He very judiciouſly apprizes the reader, that his account will appear to be very different, in many inſtances, from what Buffon and others have written on the ſubject; and begs it may be remembered that they wrote chiefly from hearſay, but that what he advances is the reſult of his own actual obſervation.

The length of the Beaver, from the noſe to the tail, is about three feet; the tail is eleven inches long and three inches broad; the cutting teeth are very ſtrong, and well adapted to the purpoſe of gnawing wood; the ears are ſhort, and almoſt hid in the fur; the noſe is blunt; the fore feet are ſmall; but the hinder ones are large and ſtrong; the tail is broad, almoſt oval, compreſſed horizontally, and covered with ſcales. The hair, or fur, with which the Beaver is covered, is generally of a dark-brown colour, with ſome few inſtances of variation to black, and very rarely white. This valuable fur is well known to be the foundation of the hat manufactory.

(A) Journal of Tranſactions, &c. on the Labrador Coaſt, by G. Cartwright, Eſq. 3 vol. 4to. 1792.

THE BEAVER.

The Beaver feeds on the leaves and bark of ſuch trees and ſhrubs as have not a reſinous juice. Lawſon ſays, they prefer the ſaſſafras, aſh, and ſweet gum; but Captain Cartwright aſſerts their favourite food to be the aſpen, the birch, and the root of the water lily. When they eat, they hold the food in their fore paws, and ſit up like Squirrels. The Count de Buffon, hurried on by the impetuoſity of his lively imagination, has ſaid, that "a Beaver has a ſcaly tail, becauſe he eats fiſh;" on which paſſage Mr. Cartwright pleaſantly obſerves, "I wonder that M. Buffon has not one himſelf, for the ſame reaſon, for I am ſure he has eaten a great deal more fiſh than all the Beavers in the world put together." The fact is, Beavers will neither eat fiſh, nor any other animal food whatever, but ſubſiſt wholly on vegetable ſubſtances. They bring forth their young towards the end of June, and generally have two at a time, which are for the moſt part male and female; the firſt time of breeding, indeed, they often have but one, and ſome of the old ones have been known to produce three or four, and even more at a birth. The firſt year they are called Pappooſes; the ſecond, Small Medlers; the third, Large Medlers; the fourth Beavers; and, after that, Old or Great Beavers. The young ones continue with their parents till they are full three years old; when they pair off, build a houſe for themſelves, and begin to breed. Sometimes, if they are undiſturbed and have plenty of proviſions, they remain with the old ones, and the ſociety is then called a double crew. Sometimes a ſingle Beaver lives by itſelf, and is then called a Hermit, or a Terrier. Whatever may have been the cauſe which has ſeparated theſe individuals from ſociety, it is certain that they always have a black mark on the inſide of the ſkin upon their backs, which is called a ſaddle, and diſtinguiſhes them from the others. Cartwright ſuppoſes this ſeparation from ſociety may ariſe from their fidelity and conſtancy to each other; and that, having by ſome accident loſt their mate, they will not readily pair again. He thinks likewiſe that the mark on the back may proceed from the want of a companion to keep that part warm. They move but ſlowly on land, and being cowardly, are eaſily killed, notwithſtanding they are poſſeſſed of the means to make a ſtout reſiſtance, as their teeth are long, ſharp, and ſtrong, and firmly ſet in their jaws, which are likewiſe very ſtrong. If they chance to be met on ſhore by a man, they will ſit down on their bottom and cry like a child. Theſe ſolitary Beavers inhabit holes, which they burrow in the banks of rivers, below the freezing point, and work their way upward to the height of many feet, ſtocking them with proviſions for the winter; but the generality of Beavers live in aſſociated communities, conſiſting of two or three hundred; inhabiting houſes, which they raiſe to the height of eight feet above the water. They build theſe houſes on piles, and form them either round or oval, with arched tops, which give them the appearance of a dome on the outſide, and within they reſemble an oven. The community generally build from ten to twenty-five of theſe houſes, the conſtruction of which, together with the choice of a proper place, and the fitting it to the intended purpoſe, furniſh the moſt ſtriking inſtance of inſtinctive ſagacity, as it is impoſſible theſe works could be accompliſhed without the combined aſſiſtance of many individuals, who muſt be mutually acquainted with each others intentions, and know how to direct their actions ſo as to promote the deſired end. If they find a place ſuitable to their purpoſe, which is generally a pond in the vicinity of aſpen and birch trees, they begin to erect their houſes in the month of Auguſt. If they cannot find a ſpot naturally adapted to their operations, they make choice of a level piece of ground, having a ſmall rivulet running through it, in which they conſtruct a dam, which, ſtopping the courſe of the water, forms a pond, which they can make as deep or as ſpacious as they pleaſe, by proportioning the dam accordingly. Theſe dams are formed with prodigious ſtrength, by means of ſtakes driven into the ground, ſome ſay five or ſix feet long; theſe are placed in rows, and pliant twigs are wattled between them, as hurdles are made; the interſtices are then filled with clay, ſtones, and ſand, which are well rammed down. They are ſhaped with a ſlope on the ſide next to the water, but are perpendicular on the other ſide: they are ten or twelve feet thick at the baſe, but gradually diminiſh towards the top, which is uſually two or three feet thick. Some of theſe dams are a hundred feet in length, and are exactly level from end to end. Mr. Cartwright ſays, he has walked over them with the greateſt ſafety. Having by theſe means collected a ſufficient quantity of water for their purpoſe, they begin to erect their houſes near the edge of the ſhore. Theſe houſes are conſtructed of earth, ſtones, and ſticks, cemented together with great art and ingenuity, and plaiſtered within as neatly as if they were built by a maſon. They have but one opening(A), which is always next the water; for, were it on the land ſide, the froſty air would enter at that hole and freeze up the water, whereby they would be cut off from their magazine; and the cold would be greater than they could bear; for, although they are very warmly clad, it is well known that they cannot endure ſevere froſt, but will die if expoſed to it for a ſhort time. Each houſe contains from two to thirty Beavers. Every Beaver forms its own bed of moſs; and each family fills its magazine with proviſions againſt the winter, which they lodge under water, and bring into their apartments as they want them(B). If there is an iſland in the pond, they generally make choice of that, as the ſafeſt place to build on; and the greateſt number of their houſes are placed on the north ſhore, that they may enjoy more of the ſun. If the pond, in which they have lived during one winter, has plenty of their favourite food in its vicinity, and they have not been diſturbed, they very rarely quit it; but if the ſupply of proviſions runs ſhort, they will wander about, till they have found another ſpot where there is greater plenty. When they remain three or four years in the ſame pond, they frequently erect a new houſe every year, although the old one is not much the worſe for wear; ſometimes they will repair an old one which has been forſaken, and live in that. It often happens that they build a new houſe upon, or cloſe by, an old one, joining the two tops into one, and cut a communication between them from one to the other: hence it is probable that the idea of their having ſeveral apartments took its riſe. They are ſo induſtrious, that even when they have laid in an abundant ſtock of proviſions, they ſtill go on adding to the ſtore; and when their houſes are completely finiſhed, they ſtill carry on freſh works; nor will they deſiſt when the pond is frozen firmly over, but continue to work on the houſe for ſome nights

(A) Cartwright.

(B) Pennant.

after, through a hole which they keep open on purpoſe, if the froſt is not too ſevere. They forſake their houſes during the ſummer, and ramble about from place to place, ſleeping on a bed which they make of ſticks ſhred fine, under the covert of ſome buſh near the water ſide. Although the ſagacity of the Beaver appears ſo aſtoniſhing, it is certainly not infallible; as they have been known to eſtabliſh their colony in a pond, where their food was ſo ſcarce, that all have died with hunger; or to chuſe a ſituation ſo flat, that a ſudden thaw in the winter has flooded the whole place. Sometimes they have fixed on a brook where a thaw has ſwelled the ſtream of water to ſuch a height as to waſh away all their food, and ſtarve them to death.

Much has been ſaid by different writers, of their gnawing down large trees, and tranſporting them to their works by their united ſtrength; but theſe accounts appear to have been greatly exaggerated, although there is ſome foundation for them. It has likewiſe been ſaid, that they uſe their tails as trowels to plaiſter their houſes with, but Mr. Cartwright ſeems to doubt this circumſtance, and obſerves, in ſupport of his opinion, that their tails are too heavy, and the tendons which move them too weak, to enable them to perform ſuch an operation: he rather thinks they daub the earth on with their fore feet. He profeſſes not to believe the aſſertion, that they uſe their tails as ſledges to draw ſtones and earth upon, becauſe the tail being thickeſt at the root and down the centre, he conceives it impoſſible that a ſtone ſhould be kept on it, unleſs it were held there by another Beaver: he ſays, he never obſerved that they had removed any ſtones off the ground, but that they bring them in their fore paws from the ſides and bottom of the pond. But what ſeems to put the matter out of all doubt is, that the ſkin on the under ſide of the tail never appears in the leaſt rubbed or ſcratched, which would inevitably be the caſe, were that part made uſe of for the purpoſe of drawing heavy loads.

The ſkins of the Beaver form an amazing article of trade. In the year 1763, fifty-four thouſand ſix hundred and ſeventy ſkins were ſold in a ſingle ſale of the Hudſon's Bay Company. They are diſtinguiſhed by different appellations. Thoſe ſkins which have been worn by the Indians are called

Coat Beaver; Parchment Beaver is ſo called, becauſe the under ſide of it reſembles that ſubſtance; and Stage Beaver, which is the worſt, is that which the Indians kill out of ſeaſon, when they are out on their ſtages and journeys(A).

The well-known, valuable drug, caſtoreum, or caſtor, is the inguinal glands of theſe animals; that which comes from Ruſſia is five times more valuable than what is brought from America.

The fleſh of the Beaver is eſteemed good eating: it is uſually preſerved by drying it in the ſmoke, after the bones have been taken out.

The Beaver inhabits Europe from Lapland to Languedoc(B); it is found in great plenty in the North; is met with in abundance in the Ruſſian and Aſiatic dominions; but is found in greateſt plenty in North America.

"Beavers were formerly found in Great Britain; but the breed has been long ſince extirpated. The lateſt accounts we have of them is in Giraldus Cambrenſis(C), who travelled through Wales in 1188: he gives a brief hiſtory of their manners, and adds, that in his time they were found only in the river Teiri; two or three lakes in that principality ſtill bear the name of *Llyn yr Afange*(D), or the Beaver Lake; which is a farther proof, that theſe animals were found in different parts of it. But we imagine they muſt have been very ſcarce even in earlier times; for by the laws of Hoel dda, the price of a Beaver's ſkin (Croen Lloſtlydan, or the broad-tailed animal) was fixed at one hundred and twenty pence, a great ſum in thoſe days(E)."

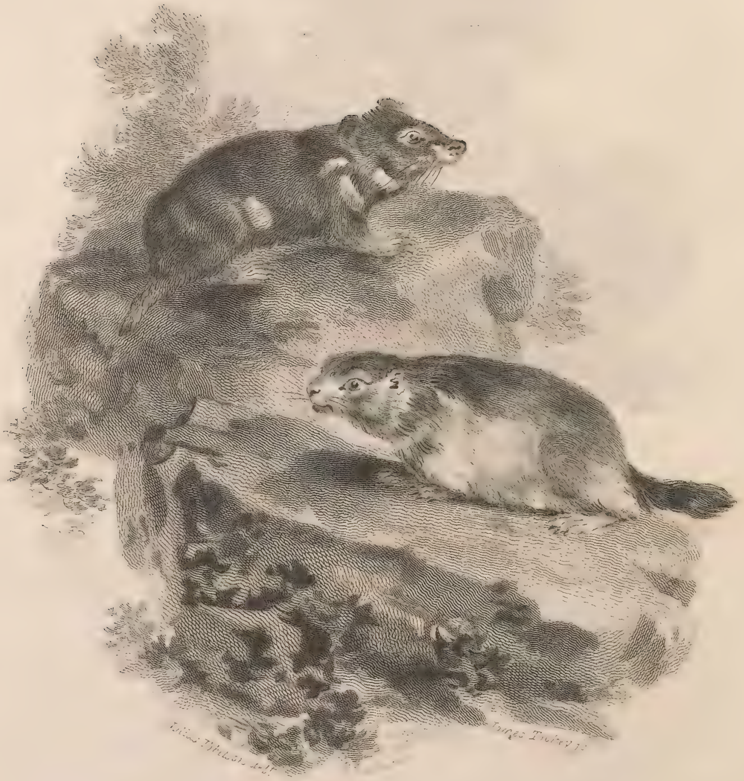
(A) Pennant.

(B) Buffon.

(C) Girald Camb. Itin. 178, 179.

(D) Raii Syn. Quad. 213.

(E) Pennant's Britiſh Zoology.


James Tookey sc.

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HAMSTER.

MARMOT.

THE HAMSTER.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Very ſlender taper tail, naked, or very ſlightly covered with hair.

SYNONIMS.

HAMESTER, CRICETUS, *Geſner Quad.* 738. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 221.
KRIETSCH, HAMSTER, *Kramer Auſtr.* 317. *Zimmerman,* 343. 511.
HAMSTER, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 206.
LE HAMSTER, *de Buffon,* xiii. 117. *tab.* xiv. xvi. *Suppl.* iii. 183.
PORCELLUS FRUMENTARIUS, *Schwenkfelde Theriotroph.* 118.
MUS CRICETUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 82.

TO form an opinion of animals from their reſpective good or evil qualities, we ſhould rather act like biaſſed individuals than impartial hiſtorians; and therefore, notwithſtanding the univerſal deteſtation in which the Hamſter is held by the inhabitants of thoſe countries where it abounds, we do not heſitate to aſſign it a place among the greateſt curioſities of nature, on account of its ſingular habits, and thoſe admirable inſtincts that conduce to its preſervation: and, in this view, we preſume to recommend it to the contemplation of our readers.

The head of this animal is furniſhed with large rounded ears, and full black eyes; its fore feet are divided into four toes, with a fifth claw; its hind feet have five toes; and its tail meaſures about three inches. Each cheek has two pouches, which are frequently diſtended with food till they ſeem ready to burſt: its colour, on the head and back, is a reddiſh brown; the cheeks are red; the breaſt, belly, and upper part of the fore legs black;

each ear is diverſified with white ſpots, and a ſmall portion of white appears near the hind legs. Sometimes, however, theſe colours vary; and, it is aſſerted, that in the vicinage of Caſan there is frequently found a family of Hamſters that are entirely black.

The habitation of this animal is exceedingly curious, and diſplays a conſiderable ſhare of ingenuity in its conſtruction. It conſiſts of ſeveral apartments, deſigned for different purpoſes, and wonderfully adapted to the convenience of the inmates. The firſt entrance is formed in an oblique direction from the ſurface of the earth; and at the bottom of this entrance a perpendicular hole is ſunk by the male, for his own accommodation. Various ſimilar excavations are made by the female, for herſelf and young ones, as each individual has a ſeparate apartment, and each ſort of grain is depoſited in a ſeparate magazine. The depth of the caverns differs according to the age of the inhabitant; that of a young Hamſter being ſcarcely twelve inches deep, while thoſe of the old ones are ſunk to the depth of four or five feet, and the whole diameter of the habitation, including the communications, will ſometimes meaſure eight or ten feet.

In the month of Auguſt, the Hamſters begin to lay up a ſtore of food, conſiſting of corn, beans, or peas, which they carry in their pouches to the magazines, and there clean it for their ſubſiſtence (A.) The quantity of grain found in theſe holes depends greatly on the ſex, or age, of the animals that occupy them; but we are aſſured, that the old males will ſometimes amaſs a collection of one hundred pounds weight.

At the approach of winter, the animals cloſe the entrance which might diſcover their retreat, and feed tranquilly on their proviſions till the ſeaſon becomes very cold: they then ſink into a lethargic ſtate, which continues till the return of ſpring. Sometimes, however, they are diſturbed by the peaſants, who carefully ſeek out their dwellings, and dig down till they come to the hoard, in which they frequently find two buſhels of good grain, beſides the animals themſelves, which yield valuable furs. When thus diſcovered, the Hamſter lies upon a bed of ſoft ſtraw, with its head turned under its belly,

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(A) The Hamsters will carry their provisions either by grains, or in the ears or pods, and when they adopt the latter expedient, they clean out the corn, or pulse, in their holes.

while its hind feet reſt upon the muzzle. Its eyes are cloſed; its members perfectly ſtiff; and all ſenſation ſo completely ſuſpended, that no ſymptom of life can poſſibly be perceived. Even if diſſected in this ſtate the fat ſeems coagulated, the inteſtines are cold, and the ſlow contracting or dilating of the heart is the only proof of exiſtence. The animal ſeems to feel but little from the operation, merely opening its mouth occaſionally, as if attempting to breathe, without being ſufficiently ſenſible to awake from its profound ſleep.

At the time of its annual revival, it firſt begins to loſe the ſtiffneſs of its limbs; it then breathes deeply, and by long intervals; its firſt motions are attended with a frequent gaſping and rattling in the throat: after ſome days it opens its eyes and makes an effort to ſtand, but its attempts, for ſome time, are like thoſe of a perſon much inebriated: at length, however, it regains its uſual attitude, and reſts for a long ſpace in perfect tranquillity, as if to recollect itſelf, and to recover from the effects of its ſtrange ſenſations.

We have already obſerved that every Hamſter occupies a ſeparate apartment, and indeed the whole race is ſo malevolent as to reject all ſociety with each other, excepting that which reſults from their ſhort courtſhip. If it happens, at this ſeaſon, that two males meet in ſearch of a female, a battle immediately enſues, which generally terminates in the deſtruction of the weaker: the female then makes a ſhort attachment to the victorious Hamſter, and will defend him from any attack with ſurpriſing fury; but this connexion ſoon ceaſes.

The females are very prolific, bringing forth twice or thrice in a year, and producing ſixteen or eighteen young ones at each litter. Theſe, in a few weeks, are forced out of their burrows, and left to provide for their future ſubſiſtence.

The Hamſter will kill and devour both its own ſpecies and other ſmall animals, and frequently ventures to attack where he cannot poſſibly vanquiſh. Thus it is ſaid to ſeize on Horſes, Dogs, and even men, with incredible fury, and to ſubmit to death rather than relinquiſh its hold.

The rapid increaſe of theſe animals has been almoſt ſufficient, in ſome years, to occaſion a dearth; but the ill effects of their fecundity are, in a great meaſure, prevented by the ferocity with which they deſtroy each other upon all occaſions; and by the exertions of their enemy the Polecat, which purſues them into their ſubterraneous retreats, and devours great numbers.

Hamſters are commonly found in Ukraine, Poland, and Germany; in all the temperate parts of Ruſſia and Siberia; and in the Tartarian deſerts. They ſwarm in ſuch a manner at Gotha, that, in one year, 80,139 of their ſkins (A) were delivered at the Hotel de Ville of the capital (B;) theſe animals having been proſcribed on account of their devaſtations among the corn.

(A) It is remarkable, that the hair adheres so closely to the skin of the Hamster, as not to be plucked off without the greatest difficulty.

(B) De Buffon, Suppl. iii. 185. quoted from Mr. Sulzer.

THE ALPINE MARMOT.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Short ears, or none.
Tail covered with hair, and of a middling length; in ſome, very ſhort.

Synonims.

La Marmotte, *de Buffon*, viii. 219. *tab.* xxviii.
Glis Marmota, *Klein Quad.* 56. *Hiſt. Mur. Alp.* 230.
Murmelthier, *Kramer Auſtr.* 317.
Mus Marmota, *Linn. Syſt.* 81.
Alpine Marmot, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 128.
Mus Alpinus, *Plinii*, lib. viii. c. 37. *Agricola An. Subter.* 484.
Geſner Quad. 743. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 221.

NATURALISTS have placed the Marmot in the ſame claſs with the Hare and the Rat; and, on a careful examination of its different parts, we diſcover a partial agreement with both theſe animals: its noſe, lips, and the general form of its head reſembling the former; and its ears, teeth, and claws correſponding exactly with thoſe of the latter: in other reſpects, however, it has no analogy to either kind, but, on the contrary, is diſtinguiſhed from almoſt every ſpecies of quadrupeds, by various habitudes that are entirely peculiar to itſelf.

Its ears are round, and ſo ſhort as to be almoſt hidden in the fur; its cheeks are large; its head, and the upper part of its body, are of a browniſh aſh colour, mingled with tawny; its legs and belly are reddiſh; its tail is about half a foot long, and tolerably buſhy; its body is thick; and its length, from the noſe to the tail, about ſixteen inches.

In its natural ſtate it ſubſiſts on roots, vegetables, and inſects; but when domeſticated it will participate of other food, and is particularly fond of milk, which it laps with a murmuring noiſe, expreſſive of ſatisfaction.

Its dwelling is uſually in ſubterraneous holes, conſiſting of two entrances and three chambers, carefully lined with moſs and hay. At the approach of winter the animals retire to theſe aſylums, and obviate the dread of intruſion by ſtopping up each entrance, in the moſt effectual manner, with earth. Here they remain, from five to twelve in a chamber, completely covered with hay, and inſenſible to the rigours of the ſeaſon, till the invigorating influence of the ſun awakens them to a ſenſe of their wants, and calls them forth to love and induſtry.

When they retire to their holes, which is generally at Michaelmas, they are extremely fat, but they gradually loſe their fleſh, and, on their return in April, they appear lean and emaciated. If they are diſcovered and taken out during the torpid ſtate, they remain inſenſible and inanimate, unleſs brought before a fire, which ſoon revives them.

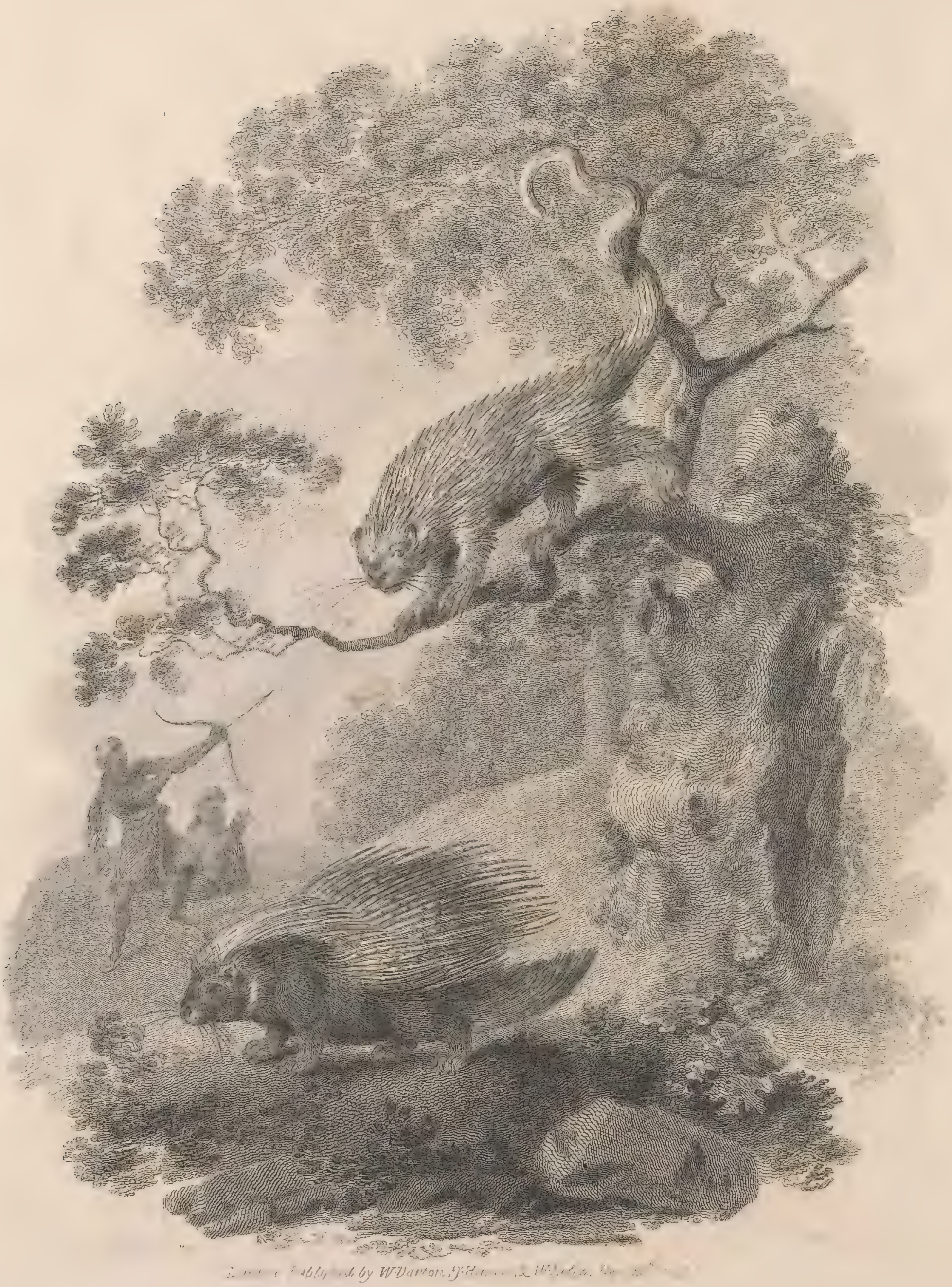
When a number of theſe animals are at food, an individual is placed as a centinel, to give timely notice of any approaching danger, which it accordingly does by a ſhrill whiſtle, that operates as the ſignal for a general and immediate retreat to the private caverns.

Marmots are ſaid to be eaſily tamed: they are remarkably playful, and will learn to hold a ſtick, to dance, to exhibit a variety of geſtures, and readily to obey the voice of their owner. When they are irritated, or conſcious of an impending ſtorm, they whiſtle with ſuch ſtrength and acuteneſs as to pierce the ear, but at other times their voice reſembles the murmuring of a young puppy.

They ſeem to have a violent antipathy to Dogs, which they will attack fiercely upon the ſlighteſt provocation: they are very apt to gnaw linen or woollen clothes, and always eat in the manner of a Squirrel, carrying their food to their mouth with their fore paws. They produce annually, and the litter generally conſiſts of three or four young ones.

Their fleſh, though attended with an unpleaſant odour, is ſometimes eaten; but they are more frequently caught for the purpoſe of exhibition.

The Marmot delineated in our plate, inhabits the higheſt ſummits of the Alps and Pyrenean mountains. Some varieties are alſo found in Poland, Ukraine, and Chineſe Tartary.



London Published by W. Darton, J. Harvey, & W. Darton, [illegible]

THE CRESTED & BRASILIAN PORCUPINES

THE CRESTED PORCUPINE.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
The body covered with long, hard, and ſharp quills.
The upper lip divided.

Synonims.

Υϛριξ, *Ariſt. Hiſt. An.* lib. i. c. 6.
Hystrix, *Plin.* lib. viii. c. 35. *Geſner Quad.* 563. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 206.
Hystrix Cristata, *Linn. Syſt.* 76.
Acanthion Cristatus, *Klein Quad.* 66.
Le Porc-epic, *de Buffon,* xii. 402.

THE general appearance of this animal, when compared with its habits, ſhould teach us not to draw too haſty concluſions from external appearances. Formidable as he ſeems to be, from the weapons with which Nature has armed him, he is notwithſtanding perfectly harmleſs and inoffenſive. It muſt be allowed, indeed, that he appears highly iraſcible, which has induced the poet to call him the Fretful Porcupine; but that apparent iraſcibility probably ariſes partly from fear, and partly from the great redundancy of bile in his conſtitution. His ſharp quills, with which he ſo often threatens his adverſary, are never uſed but for his own preſervation. Inoffenſive in his nature, he is never the aggreſſor, but when rouſed to a neceſſity of ſelf-defence, even the Lion (A) dares not attack him.

The Porcupine is in general about two feet long, from the noſe to the tail, which is four inches in length. The legs are ſhort in proportion to the body;

(A) Kolben.

there are four toes on the fore feet, and five on thoſe behind. The head is about five inches long, the muzzle bears ſome reſemblance to that of a Rabbit, except that it is always black; the upper lip is divided; the eyes are ſmall; the ears reſemble thoſe of a Monkey, and are covered with very fine hair; the mouth is furniſhed with whiſkers of a conſiderable length: the tongue is covered at its extremity with ſeveral little bony bodies, like teeth. The largeſt are a line in breadth; their extremities are ſharp and divided by three notches, making as it were four ſmall teeth of each (A). The back part of the head is adorned with a long creſt compoſed of ſtiff briſtles, which recline backwards; the body is covered with quills from ten to fourteen inches long; they are thickeſt in the middle and ſharp at the points; theſe quills are inſerted in the animal's ſkin in the ſame manner as the feathers of birds, the quills of which they much reſemble in their conſtruction; their colour is black and white alternately, which gives the animal a very beautiful appearance; the tail is covered with ſhort, white quills, which are tranſparent, and appear as if they were cut off at the ends. All the quills naturally incline backwards, and the creature can erect them at pleaſure, which he never fails to do when irritated; the opinion which once prevailed, that the Porcupine can dart his quills at his enemy, is now known to be entirely unfounded; the ſides, belly, and legs are covered with ſtrong briſtles, and a few hairs are thinly ſcattered all over the ſkin.

When the Porcupine is hunted, or purſued by any other animal, it never attempts to bite or defend itſelf, but climbs up the firſt tree it can reach, where it remains till the patience of its adverſary is exhauſted; if it cannot reach a tree, and is hard preſſed, it lies down on one ſide, and preſents its quills to its enemy, in which ſituation it finds perfect ſecurity.

The late Sir Aſhton Lever uſed to keep a live Porcupine, which he frequently turned out on the graſs behind the houſe, to play with a tame Hunting Leopard and a large Newfoundland Dog. As ſoon as they were let looſe, the Leopard and Dog began to purſue the Porcupine, who at firſt endeavoured to eſcape by flight; but finding that ineffectual, he thruſt his

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(A) Memoir. de l'Acad. de Scien. p. 149.

noſe into ſome corner, making a ſnorting noiſe, and erected his ſpines, with which his purſuers pricked their noſes, till they quarrelled between themſelves, and gave him an opportunity to make his eſcape: we have frequently been eye-witneſs to this diverting ſcene.

The Indians make uſe of the quills of the Porcupine to adorn the many curious articles they make, the neatneſs and elegance of which would not diſcredit more enlightened artiſts; for this purpoſe they dye them of various beautiful colours, and ſplit them into ſlips, with which they embroider their baſkets, belts, &c. in a great variety of ornamental figures.

The Porcupine ſleeps during the day, and feeds only by night. It has a voracious appetite, although it ſupports hunger for a conſiderable time without any apparent inconvenience. The female goes with young ſeven months, and produces only one at a time, which ſhe ſuckles about a month; during this period, like all other females, ſhe becomes reſolute in the defence of her offspring.

This animal inhabits India, Perſia, Paleſtine, and all parts of Africa; it is alſo now found wild in Italy, though not originally a native of any part of Europe. It is repreſented in the Plate as ſtanding on the ground.

THE BRASILIAN PORCUPINE.

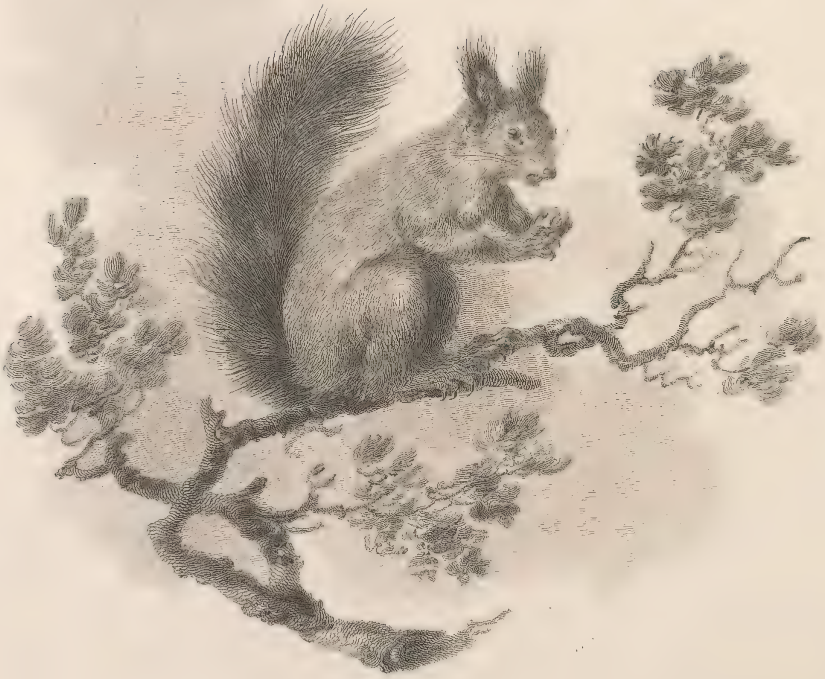
Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
The body covered with hard and ſharp quills.
The upper lip divided.

Synonims.

Hystrix Prensilis, *Linn. Syſt.* 76.
Hystrix Americanus, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 208.
Cuandu, *Marcgrave Braſil,* 233. *Piſo Braſil,* 99, 325.
Hoitzlacuatzin, *Hernandez Mex.* 322.
Chat Epineux, *des Marchais,* iii. 303.

THIS animal is not ſo large as the Creſted Porcupine. Its quills are likewiſe much ſhorter, being not more than three inches long; they are white, barred with black near their points, and are exceedingly ſharp; its noſe is ſhort and blunt, adorned with white whiſkers, and furniſhed underneath with a ſmall bed of ſpines. It has four toes armed with very long claws on each foot, and in the place of the thumb there is a great protuberance. The tail is eighteen inches in length; that half of it which is next to the body is covered with ſharp ſpines, the other half is naked, excepting only a few hairs; the end is ſtrongly prehenſile. It is a native of Mexico and Braſil, where it lives in the woods, and feeds indifferently on fruits and poultry. It ſleeps in the day-time, and goes out during the night in ſearch of its food. Its voice reſembles the grunting of a Hog, and it makes a noiſe with its noſtrils, as if it were out of breath. It climbs trees with great agility, and prevents itſelf from falling, as it deſcends, by twiſting its tail round the branches. Its fleſh is fat and well flavoured. This ſpecies is repreſented in the Plate ſtanding on the bough of a tree.



Publiſhed by W: Darton, J: Harvey, & W: Belch, London. July 1. 1799.

COMMON SQUIRREL.

THE COMMON SQUIRREL(A).

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before; five behind.
Tail long, cloathed with long hair.

SYNONIMS.

SCIURUS, *Geſner Quad.* 845. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 214.
SCIURUS RUFUS, *Briſſon Quad.* 104.
SCIURUS VULGARIS, *Linn. Syſt.* 86.
IKORN GRASKIN, *Faun. Suec.* No. 37.
EICHHORN, *Klein Quad.* 53.
WIEWIORKA, *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 225.
L'ECUREUIL, *de Buffon,* vii. 258. tab. xxxii.

THE Squirrel is perhaps the moſt beautiful of the Britiſh quadrupeds: elegant in its form, and lively and active in its manners, it is a univerſal favourite; its diſpoſition is ſo gentle and familiar, that it ſeems to be but half ſavage; and as ſoon as it becomes a captive, it appears happy and reconciled to its ſituation, and preſently diſcovers an attachment to thoſe who feed and careſs it.

The head and body of the Squirrel are ſhaped very much like the Rabbit; the eyes are large, black, and lively; the ears are terminated with long tufts of hair; the legs are ſhort and muſcular; thoſe before are furniſhed with long ſtiff hairs, which project on each ſide, near the joint, like whiſkers: the

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(A) The name of this animal is derived from the Greek words σκια, *ſkia,* ſhade; and ουρα, *oura,* a tail; becauſe it carries its tail over its head in the manner of an umbrella.

fore feet are ſtrong; the toes are long and divided their whole length, which enables the animal to uſe them as hands to hold its food with; the toes of the hind feet are likewiſe divided to their origin. This conſtruction of the toes is admirably well adapted to the animal's way of life, enabling it to cling to branches of every diameter, and to run on them with the greateſt ſecurity. The tail of the Squirrel differs from that of every other animal; it is extremely long and buſhy, covered with long hairs, which ſpread like a fan, and, when erected over its back, ſerves as a covering to the whole body and head: it likewiſe aſſiſts it greatly in leaping from tree to tree, performing the office of a rudder.

This animal ſits on its hinder legs to feed, uſing its fore feet as hands to hold its food. It never leaves the ſupply of this neceſſary article to chance; but, during the ſummer ſeaſon, ſecures to itſelf a vaſt magazine of nuts, which it depoſits in the hollow of ſome tree, and reſerves them for winter proviſion. Its food during this ſeaſon conſiſts of acorns, nuts, and beech-maſts; but in the ſummer it feeds on fruit, and the tender buds of young ſhoots, particularly thoſe of the fir, to the young cones of which it ſhews a great partiality.

The Squirrel is fond of warmth, and will creep into a ſleeve or pocket, to procure itſelf the enjoyment of it. It conſtructs its neſt of moſs, twigs, and dry leaves, which it places between the clefts of the branches where the tree begins to decay, and weaves them together with ſo much art and ſtrength, that they reſiſt the impulſe of the moſt violent ſtorm without receiving any damage from it. The neſt is covered on all ſides except two openings, which are left to enter at; of theſe it always ſtops that which is next to the wind: over the top of the neſt a kind of canopy is conſtructed, ſhaped like a cone, to defend it from the attacks of rain.

The ſpring, which is the uſual ſeaſon for love, ſhews its influence over theſe little creatures; at this time, Mr. Pennant remarks, it is entertaining to ſee the female ſeeming to attempt an eſcape from two or three males, which purſue her, by jumping and leaping from branch to branch with aſtoniſhing agility. She brings forth from three to five young ones at a birth, about the middle of May; her period of geſtation is about ſix weeks, and this happens but once a year.

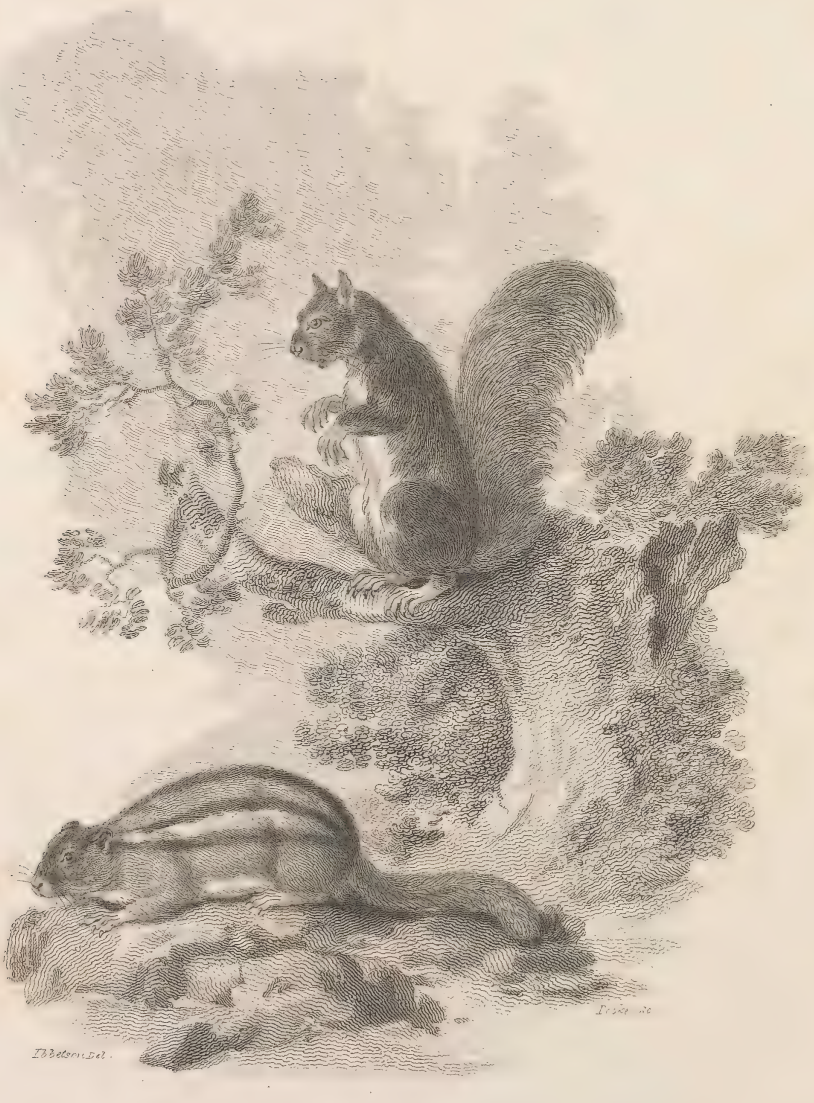
The Squirrel ſeldom makes any noiſe, except when it experiences either pain or pleaſure; in the former of which ſituations it utters a ſharp piercing note, and in the latter makes a noiſe not unlike the purring of a cat.

This pretty, little creature has but few enemies, and being ſurrounded by plenty, appears to lead a happy, playful life; ſometimes, indeed, it happens that its peaceful retreat is attacked by the Martin, who, after deſtroying the little family, takes poſſeſſion of their habitation for its own uſe, and thus adds cruelty to injuſtice; but this is a misfortune which happens but ſeldom.

Linnæus, Scheffer, and other naturaliſts of undoubted credibility, aſſert, that the Squirrel uſes its tail, as a ſail, to aſſiſt it in croſſing rivers, which in Lapland they often do in large bodies. When they are on a journey, and their courſe is interrupted by a river, they all return to the next foreſt, as if by mutual conſent, and provide themſelves with a piece of the bark of a tree, with which they return to the river, and launching their little boat, jump on it with great agility, when, erecting their broad tail like a ſail, they are wafted by the wind to the oppoſite ſhore. In this manner they often croſs lakes of ſeveral miles in breadth, and if the weather is calm and fine, have a pleaſant and proſperous voyage; but it often happens that a ſingle guſt of wind overſets the whole fleet, and conſigns the little, hardy adventurers to the watry grave. When ſuch a cataſtrophe happens, the Laplanders conſider it as a moſt fortunate event; and collect the dead bodies as they are waſhed on ſhore, the fleſh of which they eat, and ſell the ſkins.

The common Squirrel inhabits Europe, North America, and the northern temperate parts of Aſia, and a variety is found as far ſouth as the iſland of Ceylon(A). In Sweden and Lapland the colour of the hair changes to grey in the winter. A black variety is ſometimes found in Ruſſia and Lapland; and in many parts of England a beautiful variety occurs with tails as white as ſnow.

(A) Pennant.



Ibbetson Del.

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Publiſhed by W. Darton J. Harvey & W. Belch London March 31st 1804

GREY SQUIRREL,

GROUND SQUIRREL.

THE GREY SQUIRREL.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Tail long, and clothed with long hair.

SYNONIMS.

SCIURUS CINEREUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 86.
LE PETIT-GRIS, *de Buffon*, x. 116. *tab.* xxv.
GREY SQUIRREL, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 144.
FOX SQUIRREL, *Lawſon's Carolina*, 124.
SCIURUS CINEREUS VIRGINIANUS MAJOR, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 215.

THE ſize of this animal is ſimilar to that of a young Rabbit. Its ears are ſhort and plain; its coat of a grey colour, mingled with black, and ſometimes tinged with dirty yellow. Its belly and the inſides of its legs are white; and its tail, which is long and buſhy, is grey, diverſified with white and black.

Theſe creatures are very numerous in Peru, Chili, and North America, where they commit great depredations on the plantations of maize, by running up the ſtalks and eating the young ears. On this account they have been proſcribed by the provinces, and a reward of three-pence per head is given for every one that is killed (A.)

They make their neſts in hollow trees, with ſtraw, moſs, wool, &c. and form ſubterraneous magazines for their ſtock of winter proviſions. They are particularly induſtrious at the approach of bad weather, and frequently

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(A) Such numbers of these animals were destroyed in one year, that Pennsylvania alone paid 8000*l.* of its currency in rewards.

viſit their hoards, which, however, are ſometimes deſtroyed by ſwine, and occaſionally covered with ſnow to ſuch a height, that the Squirrels periſh for want.

The Grey Squirrel, though not eaſily ſhot on account of its activity, may be domeſticated with facility. Its actions are ſimilar to thoſe of the Common Squirrel; its fleſh is reckoned very delicate; and its fur, imported in great quantities under the name of *petit-gris,* is very valuable.

THE GROUND SQUIRREL.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.
Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Tail long, clothed with long hair.

SYNONIMS.
SCIURUS LISTERI, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 216.
SCIURUS MINOR VIRGATUS, *Nov. Com. Petrop.* v. 344.
SCIURUS CAROLINENSIS, *Briſſon Quad.*
SCIURUS STRIATUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 87. *Klein Quad.* 53.
BOERN-DOESKE, *le Brun Voy. Moſcov.* ii. 432.
MOUSE SQUIRREL, *Joſſelyn's Voy.* 86.
GROUND SQUIRREL, *Pennant Syn. Quad.* 216. *Lawſon's Carolina,* 41. 75. *Edwards,* 181. *Kalm.* i. 322. *tab.* i.
LE SUISSE, *de Buffon,* x. 126. *tab.* xxviii. *Charlevoix Nouv. France,* v. 198.

THIS beautiful little animal is of a reddiſh brown colour; its back is marked with a black ſtripe, which extends the whole length; and on each ſide are two black lines, extending from the ear to the tail; theſe lines approximate at the extremities, and gradually ſeparate towards the middle, and between them is an elegant ſtripe of pale yellow: the breaſt and belly are white; the noſe and feet are of a pale red: the eyes full and prominent; and the ears plain, having no tufts of hair upon them. The tail is not ſo large as that of the Common Squirrel.

THE GROUND SQUIRREL.

This animal differs greatly from the Common Squirrel in its habits. Timid and wild in its diſpoſition, it cannot be tamed without the greateſt difficulty, and ſeldom diſcovers any marks of attachment; it never aſcends trees, except when it is purſued, and cannot eſcape by any other means.

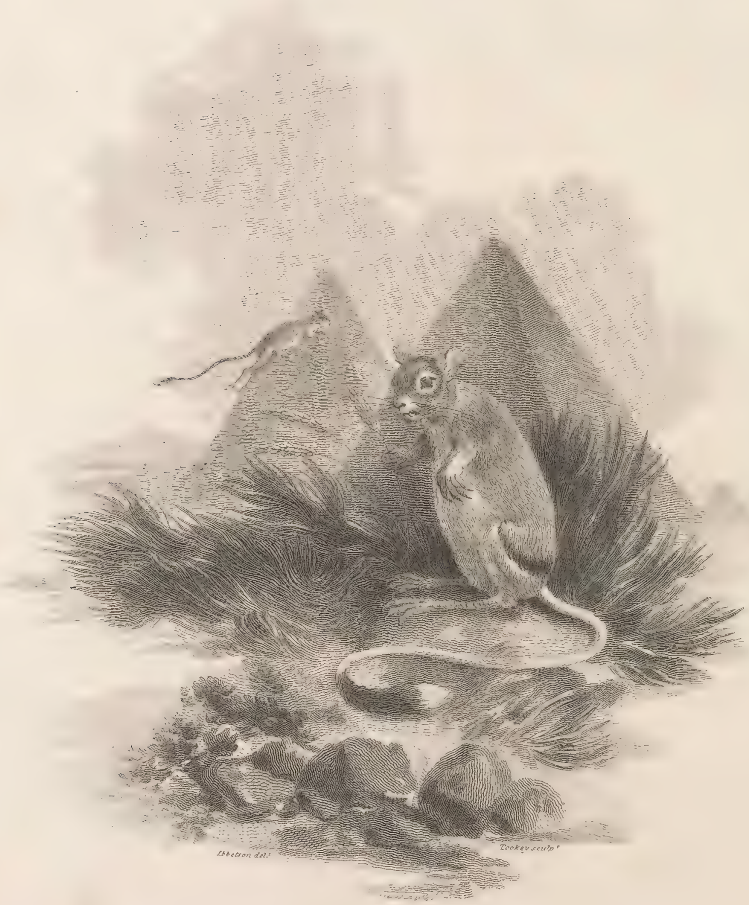
The Ground Squirrel lives in burrows, which it forms for itſelf underground; theſe it conſtructs with two entrances, both for conveniency and ſecurity. Although theſe retreats are conſtructed in the dark, they are formed with great ſkill: they conſiſt of a long gallery, which branches on each ſide into two avenues, each terminating in a large chamber, which ſerves as a magazine, or ſtorehouſe, for their ſtock of winter proviſions. In one they depoſit acorns, in another hickery nuts, in a third maize, and in the fourth the chinquapin cheſnut, which is their favourite food (A.)

They ſeldom ſtir out of their burrows during the winter, unleſs their ſtock of proviſions is exhauſted: when that happens, they dig their way into cellars where apples are kept, or into granaries of maize, where they do great miſchief. On theſe occaſions they are often interrupted by Cats, which deſtroy great numbers of them. Theſe Squirrels are very active in the maize harveſt, biting off the ears, and cramming their mouths full of the grain. It appears that they give the preference to certain foods, for if they are going home with their mouth full of rye, and chance to meet with wheat, they inſtantly get rid of the former, and fill their mouth with the latter.

The Ground Squirrel inhabits the vaſt foreſts of North America, where it is found in great abundance; it is likewiſe found in the northern parts of Aſia.

The ſkin of theſe animals is of little value: it is, however, ſometimes uſed as a lining for cloaks.

(A) Pennant.



Ibbetson del.ᵗ

Tookey sculpᵗ

Published by W. Darton, J. Harvey, & W. Belch London. Septʳ 4th 1802.

JERBOA.

THE JERBOA.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Fore legs very ſhort; hind legs long, and ſimilar to thoſe of cloven-footed water-fowl.
Tail very long, and tufted at the end.

Synonims.

Mus bipes, *Plinii,* lib. x. c. 65. *Texeira's Travels,* 21.
Le Jerbo, *de Buffon,* xiii. 141.
Egyptian Jerboa, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 164.
Gerbua, *Edw.* 219. *Plaiſted's Journal,* 59.
Mus Jaculus, *Linn. Syſt.* 85.

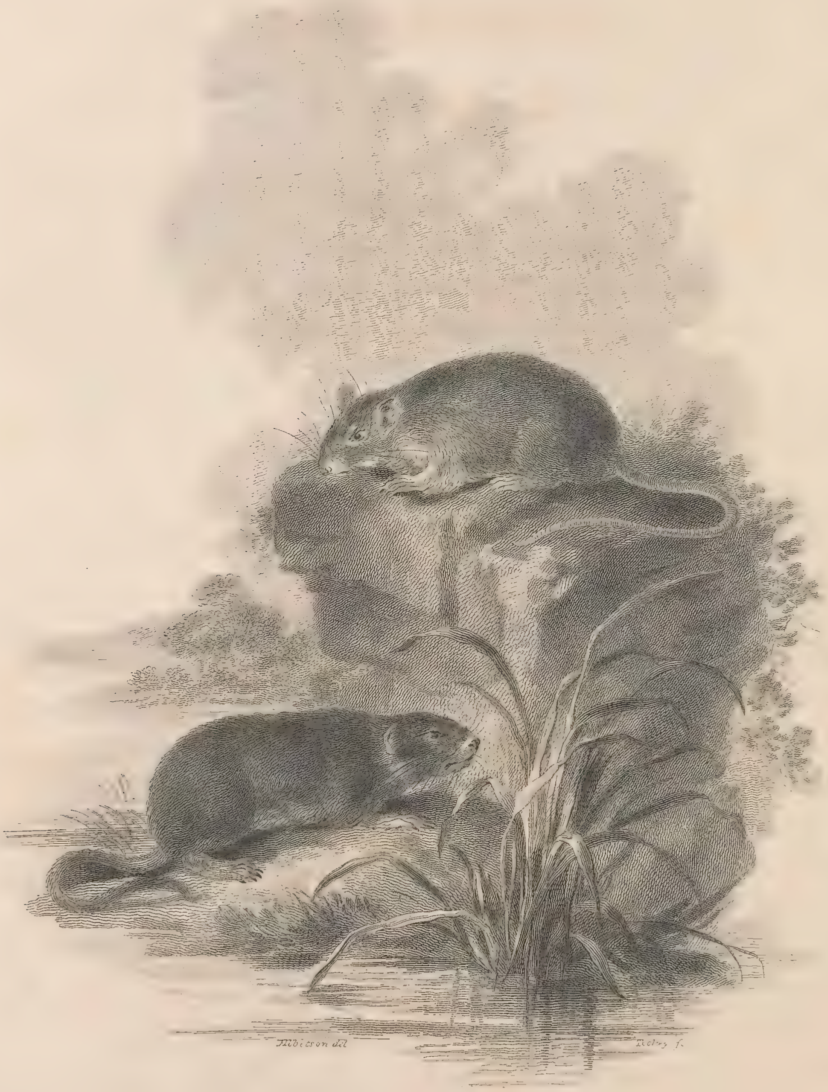
THIS animal is ſaid to be the Lamb of Iſrael, and is ſuppoſed to have been deſignated in Scripture by the name of the Coney, as our Rabbit was unknown in Paleſtine. It is alſo the Mouſe ſpoken of in the lxvi. chapter of Iſaiah's Prophecies: *Achbar* ſignifying, in the original, a male Jerboa.

The head of the Jerboa greatly reſembles that of a Rabbit: its ears are thin, broad, and erect; its eyes large and full; and its whiſkers long. The length of its fore legs is but one inch, and the uſe of them is chiefly to convey victuals to the mouth; they are divided into five toes, and pointed with ſharp claws. The hind legs are two inches and a quarter long, ſlender, and very ſimilar to thoſe of a bird; having but three toes on each, and the middle one the longeſt. The length of the body is about ſeven inches and a quarter, and that of the tail ten inches. The head, ſides, back, and thighs, are clothed with long hair, aſh coloured at the bottom, and of a pale tawny at the ends; the breaſt and belly are white; and the upper part of the thighs is marked with a broad duſky band, in form of a creſcent. Its tail is terminated with a black tuft, the tip of which is white.

Equally curious for its motions and conſtruction, the Jerboa always ſtands on its hind feet, runs with great ſpeed, and when purſued will take ſucceſſive leaps of five or ſix feet from the ground. It does not follow a direct courſe, but turns frequently to the right and the left, till at length it gains a burrow, and there ſecretes itſelf from obſervation. When in the act of leaping it carries its tail ſtretched out, but in ſtanding or walking it carries it in the form of an S, the lower part touching the ground.

The Jerboa is a lively, inoffenſive animal, ſubſiſting entirely on vegetables, and burrowing in the earth like a Rabbit. It forms its neſt of the moſt delicate herbage, rolls itſelf up with its head between its thighs, and ſleeps away the dreary months of winter without requiring any nutriment. When firſt taken it utters a plaintive cry, but ſoon becomes tame and docile under confinement.

It is found in Egypt, Barbary, Paleſtine, the deſerts between Baſſora and Aleppo, the ſandy tracts between the Don and Volga, and on the hills ſouth of the Irtiſh, from Fort Janiyſchera to the commencement of the Altaic mountains.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Published by W.Darton J.Harvey & W.Belch, London . . . 11th 18[illegible] .

BROWN RAT
&
WATER RAT.

THE BROWN RAT.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Slender taper tail, naked, or very ſlightly haired.

Synonims.

Norway Rat, *Br. Zool.* i. No. 26.
Le Surmulot, *de Buffon,* viii. 206, *tab.* xxvii.
Brown Rat, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 178.
Mus Decumanus, *Pallas nov. ſp. faſc.* i. 91.

THIS bold invader, commonly diſtinguiſhed by the name of the Norway Rat, was a ſtranger in Great Britain about ſixty years ago; ſince that period, however, it has nearly extirpated the Black Rat, which was formerly univerſal in the country, and has increaſed with ſuch rapidity, that every attempt to exterminate it has proved ineffectual. It is now commonly found in moſt parts of Europe, India, Perſia, and Ruſſia. Mr. Pennant alludes to an immenſe migration of theſe animals, which arrived, ſome years ago, from the weſt at the town of Jaik; and to an equal number which, in the year 1727, appeared in the vicinage of Aſtracan, completely filled the bed of the Volga, and infeſted the houſes in a moſt dreadful manner.

The Brown Rat is about nine inches long. Its head, ſides, and back, are of a light brown colour, mixed with aſh and tawny; its breaſt and belly are of a dirty white; its feet naked and of a dark fleſh colour; the length of its tail is equal to that of its body; and its uſual weight about eleven ounces.

THE BROWN RAT.

Like the Water Rat, it can dive or ſwim with facility, and commonly burrows on the ſides of ponds, ditches, or rivers, where it finds a partial ſubſiſtence among fiſhes, frogs, and ſmall animals: its rapacity, however, is by no means confined to theſe, as it deſtroys game, poultry, fruits, and grain with equal avidity. Its diſpoſition is bold and fierce, and when aſſaulted or purſued it will faſten on the hand or ſtick of its enemy. During the ſummer it remains in the fields, but on the approach of cold weather it ſeeks a ſhelter in ſome dwelling-houſe, to the great annoyance of the proprietors.

The females of this ſpecies are exceedingly prolific, commonly bringing from twelve to eighteen young ones at a time. Providence has, however, wiſely decreed that this ſurpriſing increaſe ſhould ſuffer a conſtant diminution from the inſatiable appetite of theſe animals, which induces them to feaſt upon each other. They have alſo many formidable and inveterate enemies, that hunt and deſtroy them upon every occaſion; among theſe we muſt rank the Cat, the Weaſel, and ſeveral ſorts of Dogs, all of which prove ſubſervient to the intereſts of man, who aids their vigorous exertions by a variety of inventions.

A truly curious circumſtance is mentioned in Mr. Bewick's Hiſtory of Quadrupeds (A) concerning theſe animals. It is there ſaid, that the ſkins of ſuch as have been devoured in their holes have frequently been diſcovered turned inſide out, every part being inverted, even to the ends of the toes. It is impoſſible to aſcertain the mode of performing this operation, but it moſt probably reſults from the method of eating out the fleſh.

(A) Vide Bewick's History of Quadrupeds, p. 412.

THE WATER RAT.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Slender taper tail, naked, or very ſlightly haired.

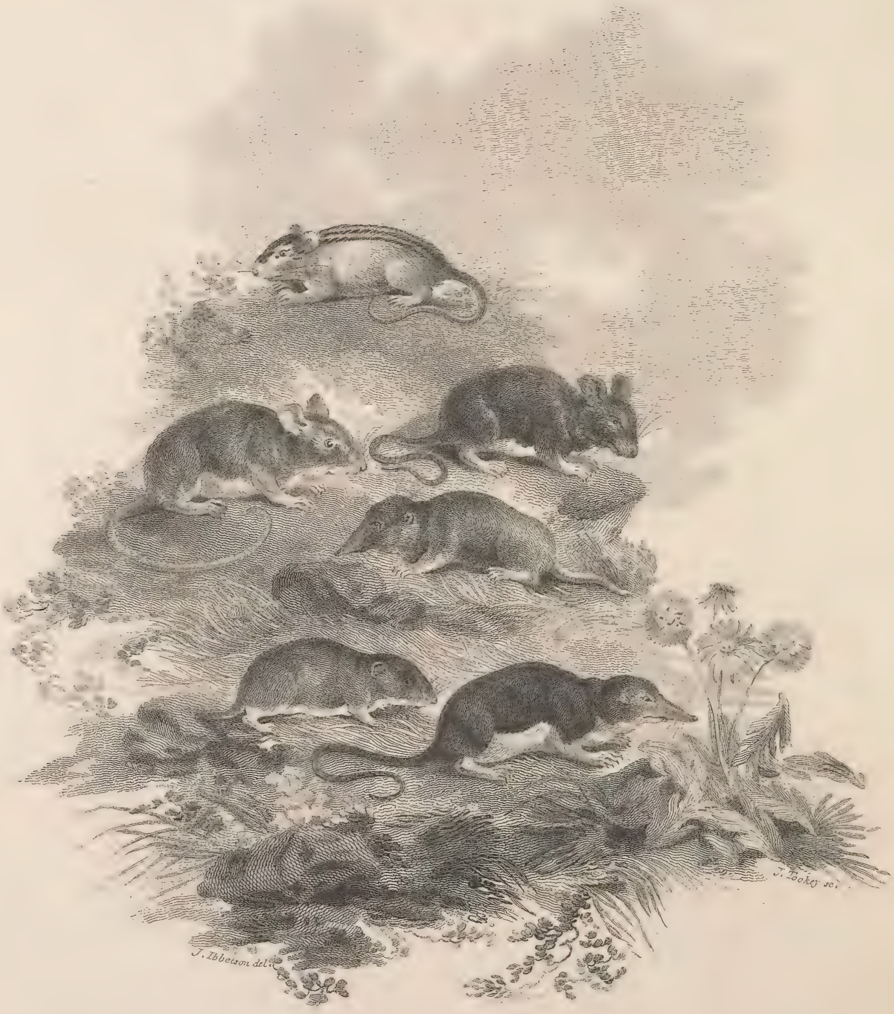
SYNONIMS.

WASSER-MAUS, *Kramer Auſtr.* 316.
LE RAT D'EAU, *De Buffon*, vii. 348. *tab.* xiii.
MUS AQUATILIS, *Geſner Quad.* 732. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 217. *Klein Quad.* 57.
WATER RAT, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 182.
MUS AMPHIBIUS, *Linn. Syn.* 82.

THIS variety is rather ſmaller than the Brown Rat: its noſe is thick; its eyes ſmall, and its ears hid in the fur: its teeth are large, ſtrong, and yellow. Its head and body are thickly covered with long hair, chiefly of a dark brown colour mingled with red. Its belly is grey, and its tail black, except the termination, which is white. The length of the body, from the tip of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, is about ſeven inches; but that of the tail is two inches leſs.

This animal commonly frequents the ſides of rivers, lakes, and other pieces of water, where it burrows, and brings forth its young, generally, by ſix at a time. It feeds on inſects, frogs, ſmall fiſh, and ſpawn; but is occaſionally devoured itſelf by the pike. The idea which ſome authors have entertained of it as being web-footed, is erroneous; yet it can dive and ſwim with remarkable facility.

It is univerſally known as an inhabitant of Europe; and is found in the north of Aſia and North America.


J. Ibbetson del.
J. Tookey sc.

Published by W. Darton, and J. Harvey, London, 1801.

MICE.

Dwarf.

Long tailed Field Common

Shrew

Short tailed Field Water Shrew

THE COMMON MOUSE.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before; five behind.
Tail very ſlender and taper; naked, or very ſlightly haired.

Synonims.

Mus Musculus, *Linn. Syſt.* 83.
Mus Cauda longissima, *Briſſon Quad.* 119.
Mus Domesticus, *Geſner Quad.* 714. *Raii Syn. Quad.* 218.
Mus minor, *Klein Quad.*
Mauss, *Kramer Auſtr.* 316.
La Souris, *de Buffon*, vii. 309. *tab.* lix.

THIS little domeſtic animal is ſo well known, that a particular deſcription of it is wholly unneceſſary. It is naturally the moſt timid of quadrupeds; yet neceſſity teaches it an appearance of boldneſs and familiarity; and, being unable to provide for its own wants, it follows man wherever he fixes his abode, and is his conſtant, though unwelcome, attendant; and, ſo great is its apparent attachment, that, when it has once fixed its reſidence, it is impoſſible to diſlodge it but by actual deſtruction. Notwithſtanding its predilection for the habitations of man, it cautiouſly ſhuns his preſence, and, as if conſcious of the miſchief it does him, ſeems anxious to ſhun the puniſhment due to its petty offences. All its motions ſeem to be prompted either by fear or neceſſity: it never quits its retreat but in ſearch of food, and for this purpoſe it generally prefers the night, and ſeldom ventures far from home, and, on the leaſt appearance of danger, inſtantly flies to its retreat. No animal is ſo incapable of ſelf-defence as the Mouſe, nor has any one more enemies: beſides the great deſtruction occaſioned by the contrivances of man, it is in conſtant danger from the attacks of the Cat, the Owl, the Hawk, the Weaſel, the Snake, and the Rat, with many others, which deſtroy this ſpecies by millions; in ſhort, it would be ſoon extinct, were it not for its natural fears and aſtoniſhing fecundity. The Mouſe brings forth its young many times in the year, and at all ſeaſons, and produces from ſix to ten at a litter; the young ones are produced without hair, but are able to ſhift for themſelves in about a fortnight after their birth. Ariſtotle gives us an idea of their amazing increaſe, by aſſuring us, that, having put a female Mouſe, with young, into a veſſel of corn, in ſome time after he found one hundred and twenty Mice, all ſprung from one dam (A.)

The Mouſe is not only an inhabitant of man's dwellings; it is alſo frequently found, in great abundance, in farmers' yards, among the ricks of corn; but it ſhuns thoſe ricks which are infeſted with Rats. They are generally found moſt numerous on the ſouth-weſt ſide of the rick, which is moſt expoſed to the rain, and may often be ſeen in the evening, venturing forth to drink the little drops of rain or dew, which hang at the ends of the ſtraw. As the Mouſe quickly arrives at a ſtate of maturity, the duration of its life is but ſhort, ſeldom exceeding the term of two or three years. The Mouſe inhabits all parts of the world, except the arctic regions: it has always been found in almoſt all parts of the old continent, and has been exported to the new (B.)

The ingenuity of man has contrived various means of deſtroying this little animal; the curious reader will find a great variety of traps, adapted to this purpoſe, very minutely deſcribed by Geſner.

A beautiful and elegant white variety of the Mouſe is ſometimes met with, the eyes of which are bright ſcarlet, like the eyes of the White Rabbit, and, from their prominence and brilliancy, make a very ſplendid appearance among the ſnowy fur of the animal.

(A) Pennant. (B) Lisle's Husbandry, vol. i. p. 391.

THE COMMON MOUSE.

Though prejudice and apprehenſion have attached a kind of diſguſt to the ſight of this little animal, it is nevertheleſs, when viewed diſpaſſionately, a moſt elegant creature: its colour is pleaſing; its hair is ſoft and ſleek; its eyes bright and lively; its limbs are moſt delicately formed, and its motions full of lively action: to which we may add, that it is cleanly in the extreme.

THE DWARF MOUSE.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before; five behind.
Tail very ſlender and taper; naked, or very ſlightly haired.

WE are obliged to Dr. Sparrman for the diſcovery of this beautiful little quadruped, which is ſuppoſed to be the moſt diminutive that is known in the world.

The top of the head is black; the eyes are encircled by a broad border of white; the noſe is white; and the back, ſides, and legs are of a ferruginous brown. The back is adorned by four black ſtripes, which extend from the nape of the neck, the whole length of the body, to the tail. It is found in the interior parts of the country behind the Cape of Good Hope.

THE LONG-TAILED FIELD-MOUSE.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Tail very ſlender and taper; naked, or very ſlightly haired.

SYNONIMS.

MUS AGRESTIS MINOR, *Geſner Quad.* 733.
MUS DOMESTICUS MEDIUS, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 218.
MUS SYLVATICUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 84.
MAUSS MIT WEISSEN BAUCH, *Kramer Auſtr.* 317.
MUS CAUDA LONGA, *Briſſon Quad.* 123.
LE MULOT, *de Buffon,* vii. 325. *tab.* xli.

THIS animal greatly reſembles the Common Mouſe in its form, but it is rather larger. In its colour it reſembles the Norway Rat, the head, back, and legs being of a yellowiſh brown; the breaſt is of an ochre colour, and the belly is white. Its eyes are remarkably large and prominent. It meaſures four inches and a half, from the tip of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is four inches in length, and is ſlightly covered with hair.

This ſpecies of Mouſe is found only in fields, woods, and gardens: it feeds on nuts, beech-maſts, acorns, and all kinds of grain, which it collects during the ſummer and autumn, and forms large magazines for a winter ſupply. The ſmell of this buried corn often tempts Hogs to do much damage to the fields, by digging up the ground in ſearch of theſe hoards. If they are ſhort of proviſions, they will devour each other, and even their own young. They make a neſt near the ſurface of the earth, and often in a thick tuft of graſs; they are very prolific, and produce from ſeven to ten little ones at a birth.

This Mouſe ſeldom makes its appearance in the winter, during which inclement ſeaſon it lies ſheltered under the ground, in a warm bed, which it conſtructs of dry graſs and leaves; but, during the harveſt time, it is ſeen in great numbers among the ſheaves and ricks of corn. This ſpecies is found all over England, in ſome parts of which it is called the Bean-Mouſe, from the great havock it makes among the beans, when they are newly ſown (A.)

(A) Pennant.

THE SHORT-TAILED FIELD-MOUSE.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Tail very ſlender and taper; naked, or very ſlightly haired.

SYNONIMS.

MUS AGRESTIS, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 218.
MUS TERRESTRIS, *Linn. Syſt.* 82.
MOLLE, *Faun. Suec.* No. 31.
MUS CAUDA BREVI, *Briſſon Quad.* 125.
ERDZEISL, *Kramer Auſtr.* 316.
LE CAMPAGNOL, *de Buffon*, vii. 369. *tab.* xlvii.

THIS ſpecies of Mouſe is remarkable for the prominence of its head, which gives that part the appearance of being remarkably large; the noſe is blunt; the ears are ſhort, and almoſt hid in the fur; the eyes are full and prominent; the tail is ſhort. The general colour of the head and upper part of the body is a ruſty brown, mixed with black; the belly is of a deep aſh-colour; its length, from the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, is about three inches; the tail is one inch and a half long; it is very thinly covered with hair, and is terminated by a ſmall tuft.

This ſpecies, like the Long-Tailed Field-Mouſe, feeds on nuts, acorns, and corn, and lays up a ſtore of proviſions for the winter; and, Mr. Buffon aſſures us, theſe hoards will contain ſometimes more than a buſhel at a time.

THE SHORT-TAILED FIELD-MOUSE.

This animal inhabits Europe: in England it is chiefly found in moiſt meadows, where it makes its neſt underground, and brings forth eight young ones at a time, for which it has a ſtrong affection. With us it ſeldom infeſts gardens; but, in Newfoundland, where it breeds in great abundance, it does much miſchief to thoſe places.

THE WATER SHREW MOUSE.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw, pointing forward.
Noſe long and ſlender: ears ſmall.
Five toes on each foot.

SYNONIMS.

MUS ARANEUS DORSO NIGRO, VENTREQUE ALCO, *Merret Pinax.* 157.
SOREX FODIENS, *Pallas.*
LA MUSARAIGNE D'EAU, *de Buffon,* viii. 64. *tab.* xi.
WATER SHREW MOUSE, *Brit. Zool. illuſt. tab.* cii.

THIS ſpecies is conſiderably larger than the Shrew Mouſe: it meaſures three inches and three quarters, from the extremity of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is two inches in length. Its noſe is long and ſlender; its ears and eyes are very ſmall, and both are nearly concealed in the fur; the colour of the head and upper parts of the body is a very dark brown, approaching nearly to black; the throat, breaſt, and belly, are of a light aſh-colour: beneath the tail is a duſky, triangular ſpot.

This animal frequents the banks of rivulets and marſhy places, where it lives in burrows, in which it makes its neſt. It is met with in moſt parts of Europe. Mr. Pennant ſays it has been long known in England, but was loſt till May, 1768, when it was again diſcovered in the fens near Reveſly Abbey, Lincolnſhire. The fen-men call it the Blind Mouſe.

Doctor Pallas diſcovered it at Berlin, where it is called Grœber, or the Digger.

THE SHREW MOUSE.

Generic Characters.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw, pointing forward.
Noſe long and ſlender; ears ſmall.
Five toes on each foot.

Synonims.

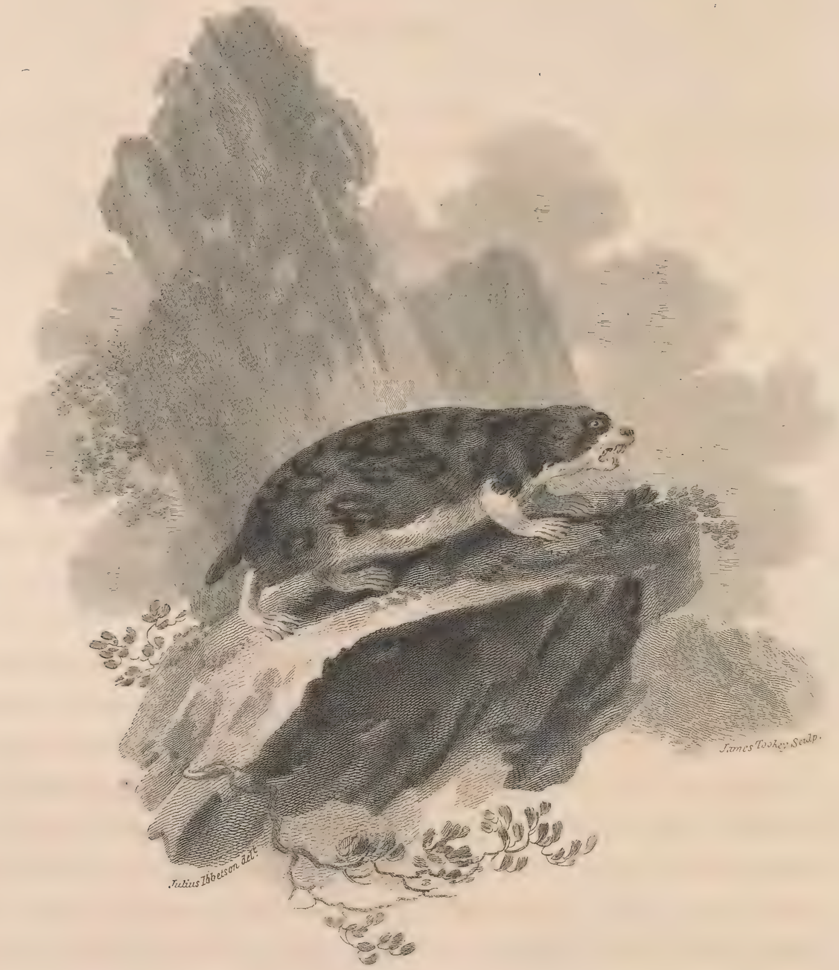
Μυγαλη, *Ælian Hiſt. An.* lib. vi. c. 22.
Μυογαλη, *Dioſcorid.* lib. ii. c. 42.
Mus Araneus, *Agricola An. Subter.* 485. *Geſner Quad.* 747.
Mus Araneus, Shrew, Shrew-Mouse, or Hardy Shrew, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 233.
Sorex Araneus, *Linn. Syſt.* 74.
Nabbmus, *Faun Suec.* No. 24.
Spitsmaus, *Klein Quad.* 57. *Kramer Auſtr.* 317.
Mus Araneus, *Briſſon Quad.* 126.
La Musaraigne, *de Buffon*, viii. 57. *tab.* x.
Shrew Mouse, *Brit. Zool.* i. 112.
Fœtid Shrew. *Pennant Syn. Quad.* 235.

THE Shrew Mouſe is readily to be diſtinguiſhed from all other Mice, by the extraordinary length of its noſe, which ſomewhat reſembles that of the Hog. It is rather ſmaller than the Common Mouſe, meaſuring only two inches and a half from the end of the noſe to the inſertion of the tail, which is one inch and a half long.

The head is rather large, in proportion to the ſize of the body; the ears are ſhort and rounded; the eyes ſmall, and almoſt hid in the fur; the noſe is long and ſlender, greatly reſembling that of the Hog; the upper mandible extending conſiderably beyond the lower. The head and upper part of the body are of a browniſh red colour; the belly is of a dirty white. This little animal differs conſiderably from the Common Mouſe, in the number of its teeth, ſixteen being the number uſually found in animals of that kind; whereas, the Shrew Mouſe has no leſs than twenty-eight; but the difference of the two upper inciſive teeth is ſtill more remarkable; they are not only very ſharp, but are furniſhed on each ſide, at the point, with an apparatus, not unlike the barbs of an arrow, which is ſo ſmall, that it is ſcarcely viſible, but on the cloſeſt inſpection; it is, however, admirably well adapted to the purpoſe for which the little creature uſes it, namely, that of drawing little worms out of their retreats in the earth, which we have often ſeen it do with great addreſs and dexterity, and afterwards devour them; and, although it will eat other inſects, and even corn, yet its favourite food ſeems to be worms, as it is frequently ſeen on dunghills, routing in the muck, with its long ſnout, like a Hog, in ſearch of its favourite food. And here the kind care of Providence is no leſs viſible, in conſtructing its ſnout of ſuch a length and form as ſeems beſt ſuited to the ſupply of its neceſſities. From its habits of living, as it were, among filth and naſtineſs, it contracts ſo diſagreeable a ſmell, that Cats will not eat it when they have killed it.

This little animal is a general inhabitant of Europe: it is frequently found in old walls, among heaps of ſtones and rubbiſh; it likewiſe frequents hayricks, dunghills, and neceſſary houſes. It conſtructs a neſt of hay, moſs, &c. which has an aperture ſcarcely viſible: in this it depoſits its young, of which it produces four or five at a litter. It is a harmleſs little animal, and does not do much miſchief to the corn.

The month of Auguſt ſeems peculiarly fatal to theſe little creatures, great numbers of them being found dead in the fields, paths, and roads, about that time.



Julius Ibbetson delt.

James Tookey Sculp.

Publiſhed by W. Darton, J. Harvey, & W. Belch, London, Feby 6th 1802.

LAPLAND MARMOT.

THE LAPLAND MARMOT, or LEMMUS.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Two cutting teeth in each jaw.
Four toes before, five behind.
Slender, taper tail, naked, or very ſlightly haired.

SYNONIMS.

LEEM VEL LEMMER, *Geſner Quad.* 731.
LE LEMING, *de Buffon,* xiii. 314.
MUS NORVEGICUS VULGÒ LEMING, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 227.
MUS LEMMUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 80.
CUNICULUS CAUDATUS AURITUS, EX FLAVO, RUFO ET NIGRO VARIEGATUS, *Briſſon Quad.* 100.

IN conſequence of the uncertainty that exiſts reſpecting the native place of this little animal, it has been ſeriouſly ſuppoſed, by the ignorant and ſuperſtitious, to have deſcended from the clouds in ſhowers of rain.

The ſpecies is only found in the northern parts of Europe, Aſia, Norway, Sweden, and Lapland, where it is ſometimes ſeen in immenſe numbers, overſpreading large tracts of country, like the army of locuſts deſcribed by the prophet Joel. Innumerable troops of them march together, in regular lines, about three feet aſunder, and, like a reſiſtleſs torrent, mark their courſe with ruin and deſolation. No oppoſition impedes their progreſs; fire and water are paſſed with equal facility, and, though thouſands ſhould be deſtroyed, thouſands would ſtill ſupply their place, and the number would ſeem to ſuffer no ſenſible diminution. They bend their courſe ſtraight forward with incredible obſtinacy, ſwimming over lakes and rivers, traverſing the greateſt mountains, and attacking every object that would attempt to turn them. If they meet a peaſant they will leap as high as his knees in defence of their progreſs, boldly lay hold of a ſtick, and ſuffer themſelves to be ſwung round before they will quit it. If they receive a blow, they will immediately revenge the injury with their teeth, and make a noiſe like a dog.

Their march is generally performed in the night, as they devote the day to reſt, or to the deſtruction of every root and herb they meet with. They are even ſaid to infect the very ground, and it is aſſerted that cattle will inevitably periſh on taſting the graſs which they have touched. The ſuppoſition, however, that they are themſelves poiſonous, is certainly erroneous; as they are frequently eaten by the Laplanders, who compare their fleſh to that of Squirrels.

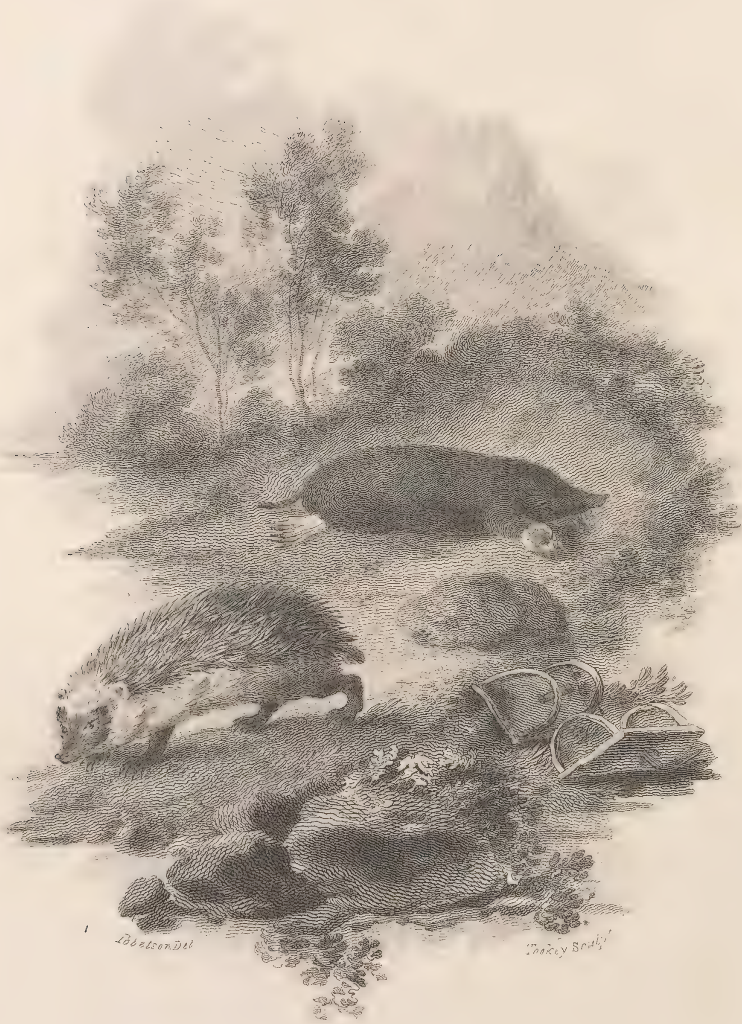
So numerous and truly formidable an enemy would certainly depopulate the countries they paſs through, if their migration occurred frequently: this, however, ſeldom happens above once or twice in twenty years, and even then it fortunately turns out that their inſatiable rapacity finally impels them to deſtroy each other. After they have utterly deſtroyed their means of ſubſiſtence, they are ſaid to divide into two bodies, which, like hoſtile armies, engage with incredible hatred, and continue fighting, or devouring each other, till both parties are deſtroyed, and the air is actually contaminated by their putrid carcaſes. Great numbers of them alſo fall a ſacrifice to the Foxes, Weaſels, Lynxes, and other animals which follow them during their migration.

The ordinary length of the Lemmus is about five inches from the noſe to the tail. Its head is pointed: its mouth ſmall, and furniſhed with long whiſkers: its eyes are black: its ears ſmall, and reclining backwards. Each jaw contains two long cutting teeth, and the upper lip is divided. The fore feet are divided into four ſlender toes, and a ſharp claw, like a cock's ſpur, in place of a thumb: the hind feet are furniſhed with five toes. The ſkin of the animal is extremely thin, and its tail ſhort. The colour of the head and body is black and tawny, diſpoſed in an irregular manner; the belly is white, and ſlightly tinged with yellow.

THE LAPLAND MARMOT, OR LEMMUS.

The females breed ſeveral times in the year, and bring forth five or ſix young ones at a birth. Sometimes their migration happens at the ſeaſon of parturition, and in that caſe they carry their litter with them, holding ſome in their mouths and others on their backs.

Naturaliſts have not yet been able to aſcertain where theſe wonderful animals are collected. Linnæus aſſerts that they are produced among the Lapland and Norwegian Alps; and Pontoppidan imagines that Kolen's Rock, which divides Nordland from Sweden, is the place of their nativity. Theſe, however, are but conjectures; and we can only ſay with Mr. Pennant, that theſe quadrupeds purſue their fate, as, wherever they come from, none return.



Ibbetson Del Tookey Sculp

Publiſhed by W. Darton. J. Harvey & J. Belch, London [illegible]

HEDGE HOG & COMMON MOLE

THE COMMON MOLE.

Generic Characters.

Long noſe; upper jaw much longer than the lower.

No ears.

Fore feet very broad, with ſcarcely any apparent legs before; hind feet ſmall.

Synonims.

Talpa, *Geſner Quad.* 931. *Klein Quad.* 60.

Mullvad, Surk. *Faun. ſuec.* No. 23. *Br. Zool.* i. 108.

Kret, *Rzaczinſki Polon.* 236.

European Mole, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 229.

La Taupe, *de Buffon,* viii. 81. *tab.* xii.

Talpa, the Mole, Mold-warp, or Want, *Raii. Syn. Quad.* 236.

Talpa Europæus, *Linn. Syſt.* 73.

FEW ſubjects of natural hiſtory are, in reality, more worthy our conſideration than the animal delineated in our plate; for, whilſt the birds are permitted to tranſport themſelves at pleaſure through the regions of the air, the fiſhes to ſport ſecurely in the boſom of the ocean, and the majority of quadrupeds to enjoy the umbrageous wood, the verdant hill, or the enamelled meadow, the Mole is deſtined to ſeek its food beneath the ſurface of the earth, and to fix its habitation in darkneſs and obſcurity. Its ſtructure and organization are, however, admirably adapted to its mode of living; particularly the conſtruction of its fore feet, which greatly facilitates its ſubterraneous labours; and the ſmall degree of its viſion, which muſt certainly conduce to its happineſs and convenience.

The uſual length of this creature's body is near ſix inches; the fore part is thick and muſcular, but the hind part tapers gradually towards the tail, which is very ſhort. Its head is furniſhed with ſmall orifices inſtead of ears, and terminates in a long noſe. Its eyes are extremely ſmall, and totally hidden by the fur. Its upper jaw contains ſix cutting and two canine teeth, and the lower has eight of the former and two of the latter. Its fore feet, which are placed obliquely, are very broad, naked, formed like hands, and divided into five toes pointed with ſtrong claws. Its hind feet are conſiderably leſs, but divided in a ſimilar manner. Its ſkin is ſo exceedingly tough as ſcarcely to be cut through. Its hair is ſhort, cloſe, and ſofter than the fineſt velvet; generally of a black colour, but occaſionally diverſified with white ſpots, and ſometimes perfectly white.

The Mole burrows rapidly with its fore feet, uſing its hind ones at the ſame time for the purpoſe of throwing back the earth. It enjoys the ſenſes of hearing and ſmelling in an exquiſite degree; the former of which enables it to elude deſtruction by a ſwift retreat, and the latter directs it to its food, conſiſting of roots, worms, inſects, &c. It proves very injurious to gardens and other cultivated grounds, by turning up the ſoil, and looſening the roots of plants and flowers, for which reaſon its deſtruction is of great importance to huſbandmen and gardeners.

In the vernal ſeaſon the female prepares a commodious apartment beneath the ſurface of her higheſt hillock, and, after contriving ſeveral paſſages in different directions, for the purpoſe of concealment or the convenience of excurſion, ſhe brings forth her young, by four or five at a time, in a warm bed of moſs and herbage.

The activity of this animal is moſt obſervable before rain, or at the commencement of a thaw, when the worms are in motion; but it ſeldom raiſes any hillocks in dry weather, as it is then compelled to penetrate deeper in queſt of its accuſtomed prey. If ſurpriſed on the ſurface of the ground, it generally diſappears ſo ſuddenly as to preclude the poſſibility of prevention; but when taken it utters a violent ſcream.

Animals of this deſcription are found in moſt parts of Europe, Ireland excepted, and in the ſouthern parts of Ruſſia and Siberia as far as the river Lena. Some varieties are alſo ſaid to inhabit the Cape of Good Hope and North America.

THE HEDGE-HOG.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Five toes on each foot.
Body covered with ſtrong ſhort ſpines.

SYNONIMS.

ECHINUS TERRESTRIS, *Geſner Quad.* 368.
IGEL, *Kramer Auſtr.* 314.
ERINACEUS EUROPEUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 75.
L'HERISSON, *De Buffon*, viii. 28. *tab.* vi.
ERINACEUS TERRESTRIS, *Raii. Syn. Quad.* 231.
COMMON HEDGE-HOG, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 234.

THIS little animal, unable to defend itſelf from the inſults of the ſmaller beaſts of prey, is provided, by indulgent nature, with a ſpinous armour, that well ſupplies the want of bodily ſtrength. When alarmed it collects itſelf into the form of a ball, and in that poſition preſents a ſurface, ſo admirably fortified on all ſides with ſharp points, that few animals, but ſuch as are trained to the ſport, will venture to attack it. The more it is tormented, the cloſer it rolls together; and ſometimes, by voiding its urine through extreme timidity, it exhales ſo fetid a vapour as to obtain a deliverance from its diſguſted annoyer.

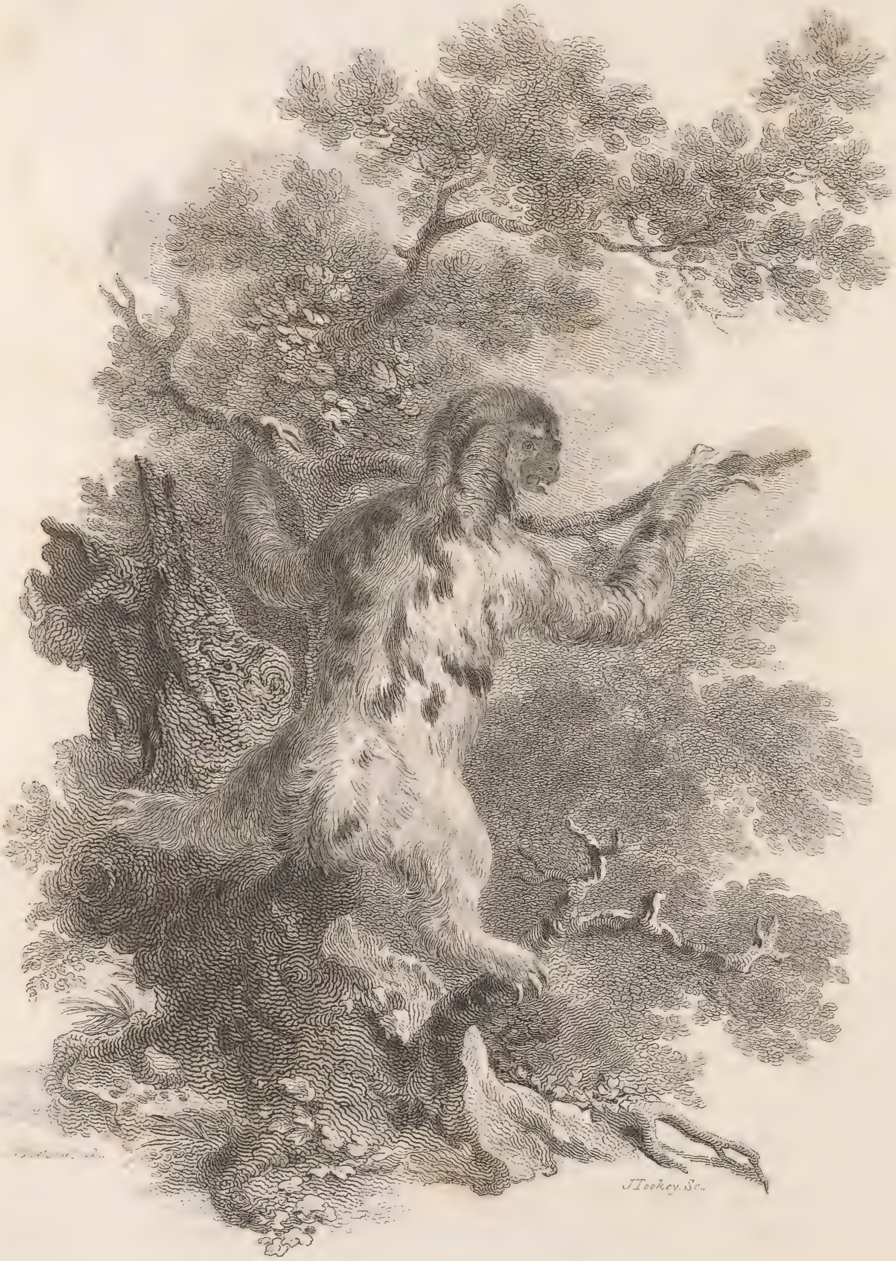
The length of the Hedge-Hog is about ten inches. Its noſe is long, and the noſtrils are bordered on each ſide with a looſe flap. Its ears are naked, ſhort, and rounded; its eyes ſmall; its legs of a duſky hue, and deſtitute of hair; its toes pointed with weak claws; and its tail ſhort. The upper part of its face, together with its ſides and rump, are covered with coarſe yellowiſh and cinereous hair; and its back is armed with a row of ſtrong, ſharp ſpines, of a whitiſh colour, interſected with a black ſtripe.

During the day this animal keeps retired in ſmall thickets, hedges, or dry ditches; but in the night it roams abroad in queſt of worms, fruits, beetles, and all kinds of inſects, which conſtitute its food. Peaſants have ſometimes accuſed it of nocturnal depredations on the udders of their cows, but this charge is conſidered, by naturaliſts, as altogether groundleſs.

The Hedge-Hog is naturally a mild and inoffenſive creature; and is eaſily taken, as it neither attempts to defend itſelf, nor eludes the danger by flight; but merely ſhrinks from the touch into its circular form, which it will not eaſily relinquiſh unleſs immerſed in water. It is ſaid, that an animal of this deſcription was once ſo completely domeſticated as to obey the call of its maſter, and occaſionally to perform the duty of a turnſpit.

When the cheerleſs ſeaſon of winter congeals the limpid rivulets, and ſpreads a mantle of ſnow over the boſom of the earth, the Hedge-Hog wraps itſelf ſecurely in a comfortable neſt of moſs and leaves, and repoſes ſweetly till the return of ſpring. If taken out in this ſituation it appears completely torpid, but ſoon recovers on being laid before the fire.

Hedge-Hogs are commonly found in Europe, Madagaſcar, and ſome parts of Ruſſia.



J Tookey. Sc.

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THREE TOED SLOTH.

THE THREE-TOED SLOTH.

Generic Characters.

Without cutting teeth in either jaw.
With canine teeth and grinders.
The fore legs much the longeſt.

Synonims.

Arctopithecus, *Geſner Quad.* 869. *Icon. Quad.* 96.
Ignavus sive per αντιφρασιν Agilis, *Clus. exot.* 110, 372.
Ai, sive Ignavus, *Marcgrave Braſ.* 221. *Seb. Muſ.* xxxiii. *fig.* 2.
Sloth, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 245. *Edw.* 310.
Ignavus Americanus, risum fletu miscens, *Klein Quad.* 43.
Bradypus tridactylus, *Linn. Syſt.* 50.
Tardigradus, *Briſſon Quad.* 21.
Ouaikare, Paressieux, *Barrere France Æquin.* 154.
L'Ai, *de Buffon*, xiii. 44. *tab.* v. vi.

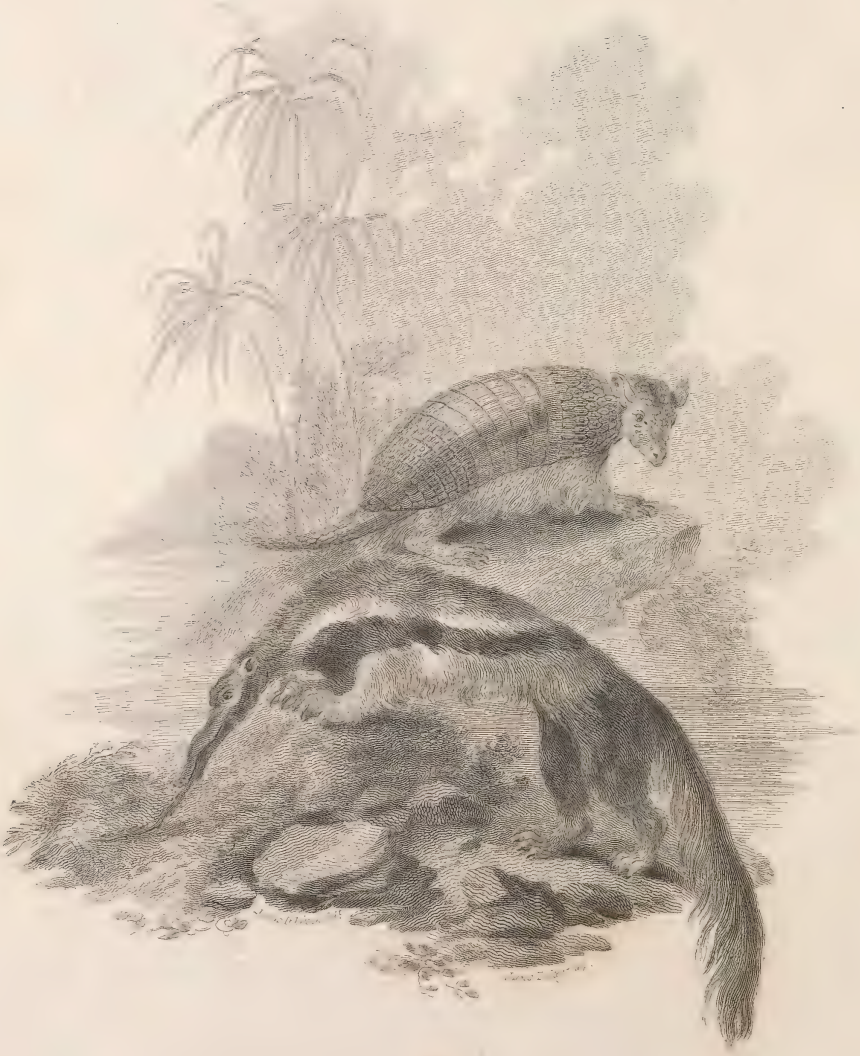
WERE we to form an idea of the internal ſenſations of this extraordinary animal from its outward appearance, the concluſion muſt be extremely unfavourable. It is certainly the meaneſt, moſt contemptible, ſluggiſh, and ill-formed animal in the creation; it is probable, however, that it poſſeſſes ſome ſource of comfort unknown to us, which places it on a level with many other creatures; and notwithſtanding its uncouth appearance it will, on examination, be found to be furniſhed by the great Creator with parts ſo formed as to be beſt adapted to its neceſſities.

This ſpecies of the Sloth is generally about two feet ſix inches in length. It is covered all over with a harſh, coarſe, ſtiff fur, which ſtands in almoſt every direction, and has ſome reſemblance to the ſtalks of dried graſs. Its face is flat and broad, ſomewhat reſembling that of a Monkey; the mouth extends from ear to ear; the noſe is blunt; the ears very ſmall; and the eyes ſmall, black, and heavy: upon the whole, the countenance exhibits ſuch appearance of diſtreſs as to excite compaſſion in the beholder. Its general colour reſembles that of dry duſt or dirt, with a yellowiſh caſt, but it is ſubject to ſome ſlight variations; the colour of the face and throat is a dirty white, and a dark coloured broad ſtripe extends the whole length of the back. The legs are thick and ſtrong, and the feet proceed from the body in ſuch an oblique direction, that the ſoles of them cannot touch the ground, ſo that when the animal attempts to walk, it ſcrapes the back of its nails along the ſurface of the earth, and then wheeling the limb about in a circular direction, it at length advances ſlowly one ſtep; the other limbs are then moved in their turns with equal difficulty: no wonder then that this animal is not able to advance more than three yards in the ſpace of an hour. But although the legs and claws are ill formed for walking, they are moſt admirably well adapted to cling round the boughs of trees with the moſt perfect ſecurity, in which ſituation it paſſes the greateſt part of its life, and ſo ſtrong is its graſp, that nothing which it has once ſeized can ever eſcape from it without permiſſion; for Kircher (A) informs us, that a Sloth ſeized a Dog, which was let looſe at it, and held it faſt with its feet for four days, at the end of which time the poor Dog periſhed through pain and hunger. The Sloth never changes its ſituation, except when ſtrongly urged by the powerful calls of hunger; and then it only crawls from one tree to another, which is a work of infinite labour, and often takes the poor creature a whole week to accompliſh. Providence has, therefore, kindly given it a conſtitution which enables it to exiſt a long time without food, as appears from an experiment tried on one which, having faſtened itſelf to a long pole by its feet, remained in that ſituation without motion, ſleep, or ſuſtenance, during the ſpace of forty days. It ſubſiſts entirely on vegetable ſubſtances, and chiefly on the leaves and fruit of trees, and it will frequently alſo eat

(A) Quoted by Pennant.

the bark. When it has aſcended a tree with extreme labour and difficulty, it never quits the ſituation till the leaves, fruit, and bloſſoms, are entirely conſumed, which, if the tree is large, will maintain it about a fortnight; it is then forced by hunger to quit its ſituation in ſearch of another tree, and as it is unable to deſcend gradually, it forms itſelf into a round ball, and thus drops from the branches to the ground. And here we muſt again admire the kind care of Providence, in clothing it with hair of ſuch a thickneſs and ſtrength as to break the force of the fall, and preſerve the creature from the accidents to which ſuch an event muſt continually expoſe it. Having fallen from the tree, it lies on the ground motionleſs for ſome time, as if to recover itſelf; during this period it is expoſed to the attacks of wild beaſts; but from this danger it is likewiſe preſerved by its miſerable countenance, which is ſo deplorable as to diſarm the moſt ſavage rage; and the cry which it utters is ſo plaintive, and generally accompanied with a kind of tears, that the fierceſt beaſt ſeems to pity its ſituation, and forbears to moleſt a creature ſo completely wretched. The Sloth is a ruminating animal, and has four ſtomachs, like all others of this deſcription. It is very tenacious of life, and like the tortoiſe, retains the vital principle for a long time after the nobler parts are taken away.

This animal inhabits many parts of the eaſtern coaſt of South America.



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[illegible] ARMADILLO

&

ANTEATER

THE SIX-BANDED ARMADILLO.

Generic Characters.

Without either cutting or canine teeth.

Head and upper part of the body guarded by a cruſtaceous covering; the middle by pliant, cruſtaceous bands, formed of various ſegments, reaching from the back to the edges of the body.

Synonims.

Tatou, *Belon Obſ.* 211. *Raii Syn. Quad.*

Tatu et Tatu paba, *Braſil:* Armadillo, *Hiſpanis, Luſitanis:* Encuberto, *Marcgrave Braſil,* 131.

Cataphractus scutis duobus, Cingulis sex, *Briſſon Quad.* 25.

Dasipus sex-cinctus, *Linn. Syſt.* 54.

L'Encoubert, ou le Tatou a six Bandes, *de Buffon,* x. 209. *tab.* xlii.

THIS extraordinary animal, as well as all the other ſpecies of this kind, was wholly unknown to naturaliſts, before the diſcovery of America, being only found on that continent. Mild and peaceful in its nature, it is equally incapable of giving offence to other creatures, as it is of defending itſelf againſt their attacks; and, were it not for the ſecurity it finds in the ſtrong covering with which nature has armed it, the whole of its life would be in perpetual danger. The ſhell, or rather ſhells, with which this animal is covered, differ from the ſhell of the Tortoiſe, in being unconnected with the ſkeleton of the animal; the ſhell of the Tortoiſe is united with the back-bone and ribs, whereas, the ſhells of the Armadillo form a moveable covering, which is connected only with the ſkin, and completely eclipſes the real ſhape of the animal; making it appear, at firſt view, like a round, misſhapen maſs, with a long head faſtened to one end, and a very long tail ſticking out at the other, which, as well as the feet and legs, ſeem not to be of a piece with the body. This extraordinary clothing conſiſts of a large ſcale, which covers the rump; and another, which extends all over the ſhoulders: theſe are united, by ſeveral bands which encircle the back and ſides; the number of theſe bands differs greatly in the different ſpecies, ſome having but three, ſome ſix, ſome eight, ten, twelve, and even eighteen; and the number of theſe bands aſcertains the ſpecies. They are all connected by a yellow membrane, like the articulations in the tail of a Lobſter, and ſlide readily over each other, ſo as to afford the animal a free and eaſy motion. Beſides theſe tranſverſe diviſions of the ſhells, they alſo articulate by a joining, which extends all along the back, and gives the animal liberty to move in every direction. The colour of theſe ſhells is uſually a dirty grey, but it differs in different ſpecies: this difference ariſes from a peculiar circumſtance in their conformation, the ſhell itſelf being covered with a ſoftiſh ſkin, which is ſmooth and tranſparent. This ſhell covers the top of the head, and the tail to the utmoſt extremity; the only parts which want it, are the throat, breaſt, and belly; theſe are covered with a ſoft ſkin, which is white, and greatly reſembles the ſkin of a fowl ſtripped of its feathers. Although this ſkin is apparently naked, if it be obſerved with attention it will be found to be covered with the rudiments of ſhells, of the ſame ſubſtance with thoſe which cover the back.

But, however ſecure the Armadillo may appear to be, under the protection of this covering, it is not a ſufficient guard againſt the attacks of its more powerful enemies. Providence has, therefore, kindly inſtructed it to roll itſelf up, like the Hedge-Hog, on the appearance of great danger. When it is violently attacked, it withdraws its head under its ſhell, which covers the ſhoulders, leaving nothing in view but the extremity of the noſe. If the danger increaſe, the feet are all drawn up under the belly, and the two extremities united together, while the tail forms a connecting band, which gives great ſtrength to the ſituation. When thus rolled up, it reſembles a ball, flattiſh on one ſide, and in this poſture it continues obſtinately fixed, till the danger is over, and often for a long time after; and this it is enabled to do, by the aſſiſtance of ſtrong, lateral muſcles, conſiſting of numberleſs fibres, which croſs each other in the form of the letter X, and give the animal a power of reſiſtance which the ſtrongeſt man is ſcarcely able to overcome. When the Indians find it in this form, they lay it cloſe to the fire, the heat of which ſoon obliges the poor creature to unrol itſelf, and ſubmit to a milder kind of death.

All theſe animals root up the ground, like the Hog, to ſearch after roots. They alſo eat melons, potatoes, and other vegetables, and do great miſchief to gardens, when they chance to enter them. They frequent damp and watery places, where they will eat ſmall fiſh, worms, water inſects, and animal fleſh, when they can get it. Though naturally accuſtomed to a warm climate, they do not ſeem to be much affected by cold; ſeveral of them have been brought into England, where they appear to enjoy perfect health. Theſe animals live in deep burrows, which they dig for themſelves in the ground: they ſeldom quit their abodes, except during the night time, when they come out to feed: they ſeldom go far from their hole, and if ſurpriſed, immediately run towards it, to ſecure themſelves. If they have not time to reach their hole, they inſtantly ſet about digging a freſh one, which they generally accompliſh before they are overtaken by their adverſary; and this they are enabled to do, by the aſſiſtance of their claws, which are extremely large, ſtrong, and crooked. They are, however, ſometimes overtaken by their purſuers, and caught by the tail before they have quite made good their retreat: in this ſituation it patiently awaits its fate.

Their motion is a ſwift kind of walk, but they can neither run, leap, nor climb trees. The fleſh of the ſmaller kinds, when young, being delicious eating, they are much ſought after, and many contrivances are practiſed to take them. Sometimes they are driven out of their holes by ſmoke, ſometimes by water, and ſmall Dogs are alſo taught to chaſe them, and force them to roll themſelves up into a ball, before they have time to reach their holes; in which ſituation they are eaſily overtaken by the hunters. If the Armadillo be near a precipice, when it is purſued, it avails itſelf of it, by rolling itſelf up in a ball, cloſe to the edge, and then tumbling down, from rock to rock, without receiving the leaſt injury. Snares are alſo very often laid for them, in places which they uſually frequent, and this method of taking them is commonly the moſt ſucceſsful.

The general account we have given of this moſt extraordinary animal, will apply equally to all the ſpecies.

The Six-banded Armadillo, of which we give the figure, is about the ſize of a young Pig; the ſcales on the head, ſhoulders, and rump, are formed of angular pieces: it has ſix bands on the back; between theſe, as alſo on the neck and belly, are a few hairs thinly ſcattered; the tail is not ſo long as the body, but is very thick at the largeſt extremity, and tapers towards the point. There are five toes on each foot.

It is found in Braſil and Guiana.

THE GREAT ANT-EATER.

Generic Characters.

Body covered with hair.
Mouth ſmall.
Tongue long and cylindric.
No teeth.

Synonims.

Myrmecophaga jubata, *Linn. Syſt.* 52. *Klein Quad.* 45. *tab.* v.
Tamandua-guacu, *Marcgrave Braſil,* 225. *Piſo Braſil,* 320.
Tamandua major, *Barrere France Æquin.* 162.
Mange-fourmis, *des Marchais,* iii. 307.
Great Ant-Bear, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 241.
Le Tamanoir, *de Buffon,* x. 141. *tab.* xxix.
Great Ant-Eater, *Pennant's Syn. Quad.* 260.

THE extraordinary figure of this animal readily diſtinguiſhes it, at the firſt view, from every other quadruped. The Horſe has the longeſt head of any creature we are acquainted with, in proportion to the length of its body, but the ſnout of the Ant-Eater is ſo much elongated, that the head, meaſured from the ears to the end of the noſe, is more than twice as long, in proportion, as that of the Horſe. This extraordinary form of the ſnout is neceſſary for the reception of its long and ſlender tongue, which is two feet and a half in length, and lies doubled in the mouth, without which ſingular apparatus the animal could not maintain itſelf.

The length of the Ant-Eater is nearly four feet, from the tip of the ſnout to the inſertion of the tail, which is two feet and a half long. The eyes are ſmall and black; the ears ſhort and round; the noſtrils are placed cloſe together, at the extremity of the noſe. It has four toes on the fore feet, and five on the hinder ones; the two middle claws on the fore feet are very large, ſtrong, and hooked: the colour of the hair, on the upper part of the neck, ſhoulders, and back, is black, mixed with grey. A broad, black line extends from the lower part of the neck croſs the ſhoulders, which becomes gradually narrower, as it proceeds along the ſides towards the back. It is bounded above by a narrow line, which extends its whole length. The hair, on the upper part of the body, is half a foot long, and has the appearance of a thick mane; the fore legs are whitiſh, marked above the feet with a black ſpot; the tail is covered with very coarſe, black hairs, a foot long. The animal, being very fearful of rain, uſes this part as a defence againſt the wet, by throwing it over its back, like the Squirrel.

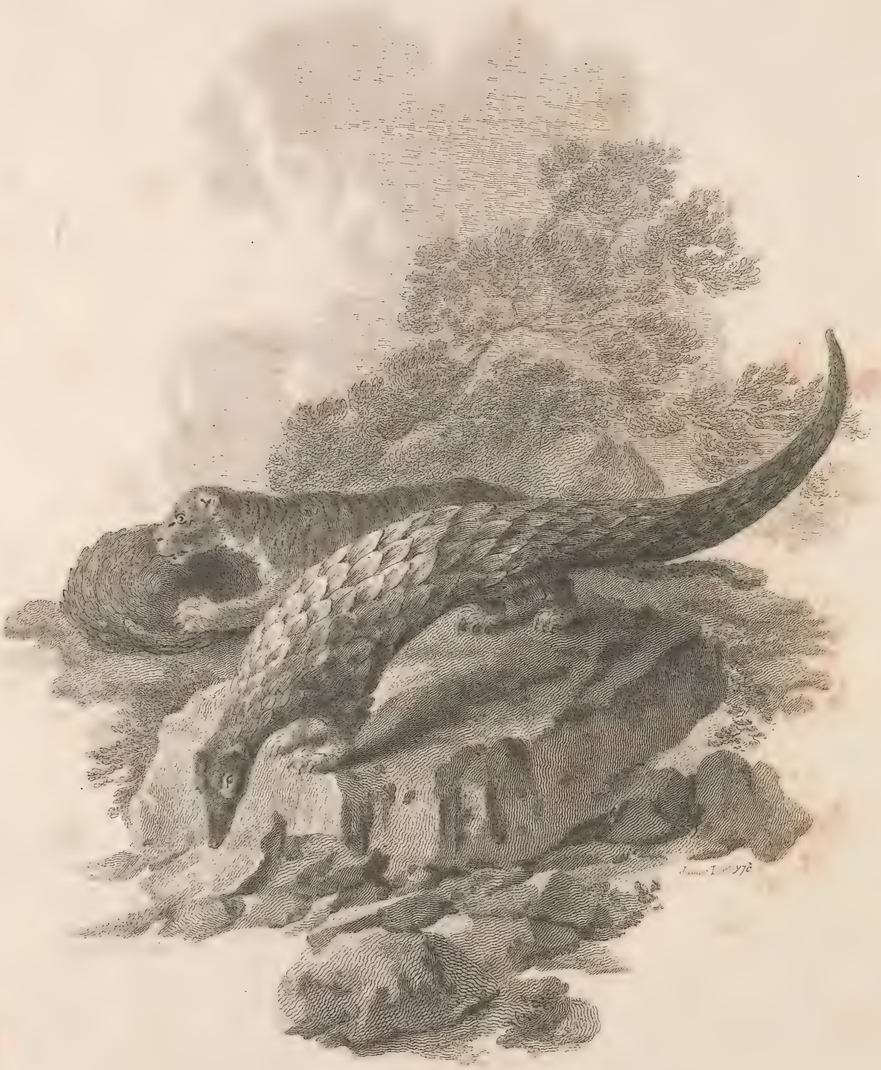
The Ant-Eater is ſlow in its motions, it ſleeps during the day time, concealed under the fallen leaves, in the woods, and ſeldom ventures from its retreat, except to ſatisfy the calls of hunger, when the induſtry of an hour ſupplies it with a ſufficiency to laſt it for ſeveral days. It feeds on Ants, and the ſingular method it makes uſe of to catch them is, perhaps, one of the moſt curious facts in natural hiſtory. In the countries where this animal is found, the Ants are in great abundance, and conſtruct hills, or neſts, which are frequently five or ſix feet high, where they live in ſociety. The Ant-Eater, having found one of theſe neſts, approaches it with caution, creeping ſlowly on its belly, and concealing itſelf with as much care as poſſible, till it is ſufficiently near for the execution of its purpoſe, when, extending its tongue acroſs the path uſed by theſe buſy inſects, it remains motionleſs, in that poſture, for ſome minutes. The Ants, miſtaking the tongue for a piece of fleſh, or a worm, never fail to crawl on it, in great numbers, and wherever they touch it, they are inſtantly entangled by the ſlimy fluid with which the tongue is covered, and which is as tenacious as bird-lime. When the tongue is ſufficiently covered with Ants, the animal inſtantly draws it into its mouth, and devours them in a moment; and this operation is repeated till its hunger is completely ſatisfied, when it retires to its lurking place; but, ſhould the badneſs of the weather, or the late hour, cauſe the Ants to remain in their habitation, the Ant-Eater overturns the hill, or digs holes in it with its ſtrong claws; when, thruſting its long tongue into the retreats and paſſages of the neſt, it withdraws it, loaded with prey, which it inſtantly devours.

Notwithſtanding this animal is deſtitute of teeth, and ſhuns the combat, it is fierce, and even dangerous when attacked; and, if it can once get its adverſary within the graſp of its fore feet, nothing but the death of the animal will make it quit its hold. In this manner it ſubdues even the Panther of America (A,) when it has the imprudence to attack it, and having once fixed its talons in the ſides of its enemy, they both fall together, and both generally periſh; for ſuch is the obſtinacy of this creature, that it will not extricate itſelf even from a dead adverſary (B.)

An ingenious writer (C) remarks, that the moſt active, ſprightly, and uſeful quadrupeds aſſemble themſelves round the habitations of man; where they are either ſubſervient to his pleaſures, or maintain their independence, by their cunning and induſtry. It is in the remote ſolitudes of the foreſt, or on the deſert mountains, that we muſt look for the helpleſs, deformed, and, as it were, monſtrous births of nature, who find ſafety in places which are ſhunned by the bolder and more active animals. This remark is verified in the Ant-Eater, which lives chiefly in woods, and lies concealed under the fallen leaves.

This animal inhabits Braſil and Guiana, where its fleſh is eaten by the Indians, but is of a ſtrong, diſagreeable taſte.

(A) Gumilla Orenoque, iii. 232. (B) Piso Brasil, 320. (C) Dr. Goldsmith.



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GREAT MANIS

THE GREAT MANIS.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

Back, ſides, and upper part of the tail, covered with ſtrong ſcales.
Mouth ſmall; tongue long; no teeth.

SYNONIMS.

MANIS PENTADACTYLA, *Linn. Syſt.* 52.
LACERTUS SQUAMOSUS, *Bontius Java,* 60. *Pet. Gaz. tab.* xx. fig. xi.
ARMADILLUS SQUAMATUS MAJOR, *Ceilanicus,* SEU DIABOLUS *Tajovanicus* DICTUS, *Seb. Muſ.* i. *tab.* liii. liv. *Klein Quad.* 47.
PHILODOTUS PENTADACTYLIS, SQUAMIS SUBROTUNDIS, *Briſſon Quad.* 18.
LE PANGOLIN, *de Buffon,* x. 180. *tab.* xxxiv.
SHORT-TAILED MANIS, *Pennant's Syn. Quad.* 259.

The uncommon ſhape of this animal, together with the ſcaly coat of mail with which it is entirely clothed, gives it, at firſt ſight, ſome reſemblance to the Crocodile; and an incautious obſerver would be induced to pronounce it a large Lizard. It has, however, no real affinity with that genus of animals, but is a true viviparous quadruped.

In order, fully, to ſubſtantiate this fact, we ſhall enumerate a few particulars, which conſtitute an undoubted eſſential difference between theſe creatures. The Lizard is produced from an egg; the Manis is brought forth alive, and perfectly formed: the Lizard is covered all over with the marks of ſcales, which adhere to the body even cloſer than thoſe of fiſhes do; whereas the Manis has no ſcales on the throat, breaſt, or belly; and thoſe which cover the other parts of the body, tail, and legs, are not only real ſcales, united to the body by one edge only, but are capable of being moved whenever the animal pleaſes. The Lizard is wholly deſtitute of the means of ſelf-defence in time of danger, and knows no ſafety but in flight and concealment: the Manis, on the approach of an enemy, rolls itſelf up into a ball, and is proof againſt the moſt powerful attacks of its aſſailant. The ſcales of this extraordinary animal differ, as to their ſize and form, but all are fixed to the body, ſomewhat like the leaves of an artichoke. Thoſe near the tail are the largeſt. They are thickeſt in the middle, and ſharp at the edges, and all end in a roundiſh point. They are extremely hard, and of a ſubſtance reſembling horn. They are convex externally, and concave on the ſide next the body; one edge is fixed to the ſkin, while the other laps over that which is immediately behind it, much like the tiles on the roof of a houſe. The ſcales, which cover the tail, are accommodated to the ſhape of that part: they are all of a duſky-brown colour, and ſo hard, when the animal has attained its full growth, that they will turn a muſket ball.

This ſingular quadruped grows to the length of eight feet, including the tail, which is four feet long. The back, ſides, and legs, are covered with ſcales, between each of which is a briſtle: theſe ſcales it can erect at pleaſure, in the ſame manner as the Porcupine erects his quills, and thereby arm itſelf with a formidable battery, capable of reſiſting the attacks of any enemy. The moſt fierce and ſavage quadrupeds in vain attempt to ſeize it; the inſtant it perceives the approach of danger, it rolls itſelf round, like a Hedge-Hog, ſecuring thereby the moſt vulnerable parts of its body with its head and feet, and in this ſituation it remains till the danger is over. In this poſture, it is ſaid to be capable of deſtroying even the Elephant, by twiſting itſelf round the trunk, and compreſſing that tender organ with its hard ſcales (A.)

The throat, belly, and inſide of the legs are hairy; the ears greatly reſemble thoſe of the human ſpecies: it has five toes on each foot, furniſhed with claws, which it bends under its feet when walking. It feeds on Lizards and inſects, in ſearch of which it turns up the ground with its noſe,

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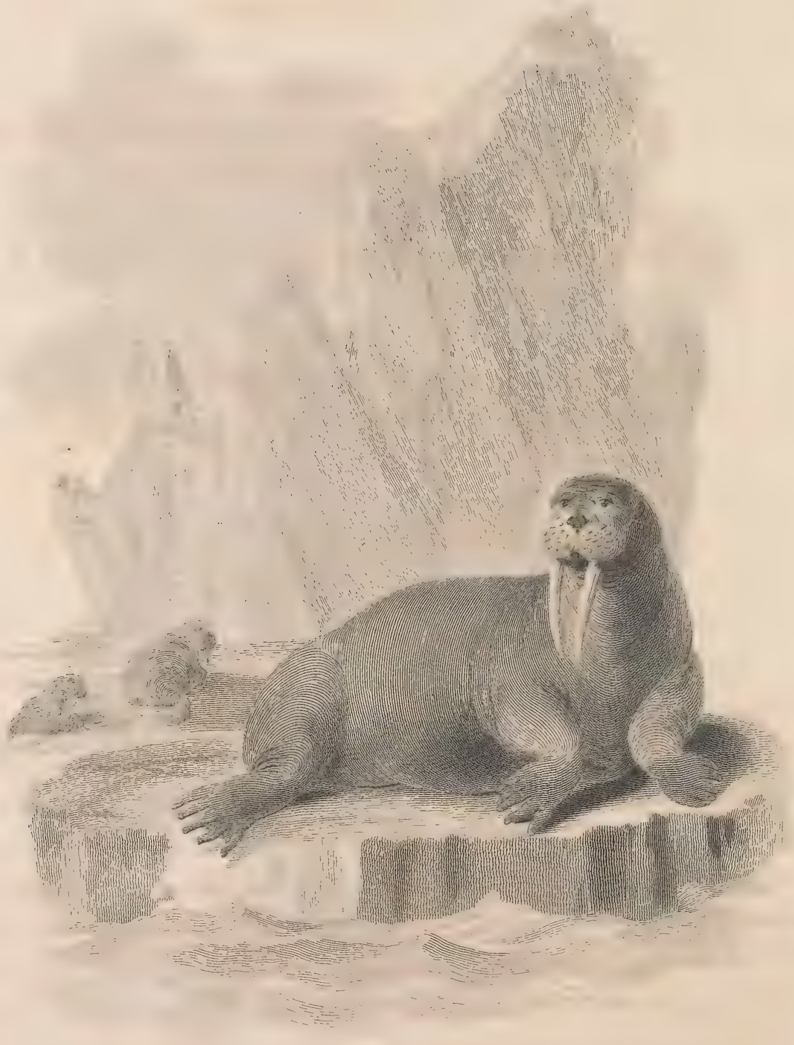
(A) Pennant.

like a Hog. It grows very fat; its fleſh is eſteemed delicious food, and is eaten by the negroes. It makes no noiſe, except a kind of ſnorting. Harmless and inoffenſive in its nature, it ſhuns the ſociety of man, and lives in obſcure retreats, in woods, and damp places, where it digs itſelf a hole, in the cleft of ſome rock, and there brings forth its young. It is, therefore, ſeldom met with, and paſſes its time in ſolitary retirement, a wonderful inſtance of the variety of nature.

It walks ſlowly, and would, unavoidably, become the prey of every ravenous beaſt, were it not for the impregnable coat of armour, which Nature has ſo bountifully beſtowed on it.

This animal inhabits the iſlands of India and that of Formoſa: it is alſo found in Guinea, where the negroes call it Quogelo. It is very fond of Ants, which it takes, like the Ant-Eater, by laying its long tongue acroſs their paths, which, being covered with a ſticky ſaliva, effectually entangles whatever inſects attempt to paſs over it. As ſoon as the Manis perceives that the tongue is ſufficiently loaded with food, it ſuddenly withdraws it into its mouth, and feaſts on the delicious morſels with which it is loaded; and this proceſs is repeated, till the calls of hunger are ſatisfied. It is againſt theſe inſects, ſo noxious to the human ſpecies, that their whole force and cunning are exerted, and, were the negroes but ſenſible of the ſervices this animal renders them, by deſtroying one of the greateſt peſts of the country, they would not be ſo eager to kill it. "But it is the nature of ſavage man, to purſue immediate, apparent good, without conſidering the conſequences."



Publiſhed by W. Darton J. Harvey & W. Belch London, Sept.^{r} 23rd 1803.

WALRUS.

THE WALRUS.

Generic Characters.

Two great tuſks in the upper jaw, pointing downwards.
Four grinders on both ſides, above and below.
No cutting teeth.
Five palmated toes on each foot.

Synonims.

Le Morse, *de Buffon,* xiii. 358. *tab.* liv.
Rosmarus, *Geſner Piſc.* 211. *Klein Quad.* 92.
Walrus, Mors, Rosmarus, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 191.
Sea Cow, *Schreber,* ii. 88.
Odobenus, La Vache Marine, *Briſſon Quad.* 30.
Trichecus Rosmarus, *Linn. Syſt.* 49.

AMONG a variety of animals, whoſe peculiar ſtructure capacitates them to inhabit, without reſtraint or inconvenience, both the land and the water, the ſubject of our plate holds a diſtinguiſhed rank, on account of its magnitude, curious tuſks, and other particulars.

The head of the Walrus is round; with a ſmall mouth; broad lips, covered with ſtrong pellucid briſtles; diminutive, red eyes; two ſmall orifices inſtead of ears; and ſemicircular noſtrils, through which it throws out water like the whale, though with leſs noiſe. Its neck is ſhort. Its body, which has been ſometimes found to meaſure eighteen feet in length, and ten or twelve in circumference, at the thickeſt part, is covered with a thick, wrinkled ſkin, lightly ſprinkled with ſhort, browniſh hairs. Its legs are ſhort, and looſely articulated. Each foot is divided into five toes, connected by webs or membranes, and furniſhed with ſmall nails. Its tail is very ſhort, and its hind feet are extended nearly on a level with its body.

THE WALRUS.

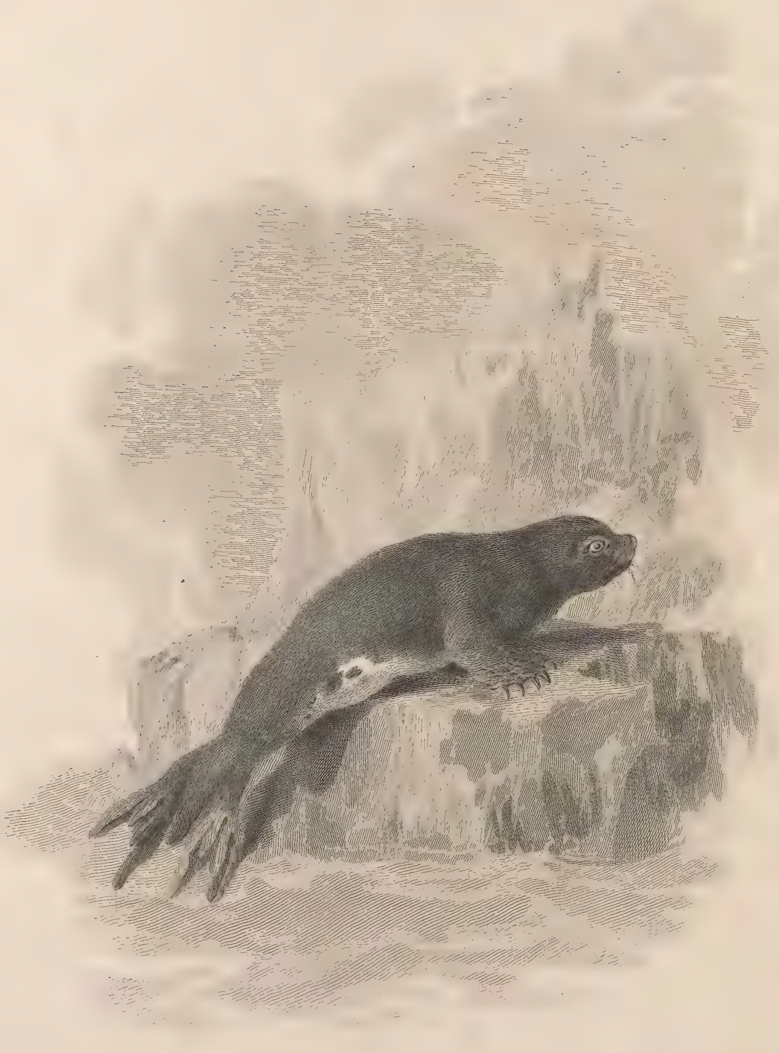
Theſe animals are gregarious, and have been ſometimes ſeen in great numbers ſleeping on the ſea ſhore, or on iſlands of ice; but they are extremely ſhy, avoiding ſuch places as are frequented by mankind, and plunging impetuouſly into the water upon the leaſt alarm: yet, if they happen to receive a wound, they become bold and furious, and will inſtantly unite in attempting a revenge. It is even ſaid, they will attack a boat, and ſtrive to ſink it by ſtriking their teeth into its ſides, bellowing at the ſame time in the moſt hideous manner.

The females produce one or two young at a time, which they ſuckle upon land. Their ordinary food conſiſts of ſea weeds, fiſh, and ſhells. In aſcending maſſes of ice, or ſtone, they make uſe of their teeth, as hooks, to ſecure their hold, and to draw up their unwieldy bodies.

They are killed for the ſake of their teeth, which are comparable to the fineſt ivory for whiteneſs and durability: and for their oil, of which an ordinary Walrus will yield half a tun, equal in quality to that of the whale. Their greateſt enemy, excluſive of man, is the White Bear; but the combats between theſe animals are generally terminated in favour of the Walrus, whoſe victory reſults from the dreadful wounds inflicted on its opponent by its tuſks, which ſometimes meaſure two feet in length, and weigh from three to twenty pounds each.

It is ſaid, that the Walrus hunters, on the Magdalene Iſles, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, watch the landing of theſe animals, and, after waiting a favourable opportunity, go on ſhore, armed with ſharp ſpears, with which they cut their throats. Great caution is, however, requiſite on this occaſion, to prevent the fugitives, who tumble headlong into the ſea, from cruſhing their diſturbers by their vaſt weight. The knowledge of this chace appears to have been of great antiquity, a report having been made concerning it, by Octher the Norwegian, in the reign of Alfred; and we have ſufficient reaſon to ſuppoſe that the teeth of the Walrus, in early times, afforded a ſubſtitute for ivory to the inhabitants of the northern part of the globe.

The Walrus inhabits the coaſt of Spitzbergen, Nova Zembla, Hudſon's Bay, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the Icy Sea, as far as Cape Tſchuktſchi, and the adjacent iſlands



Publiſhed by W. Darton, J. Harvey & W. Belch, London, Jany 15th 1802

SEAL.

THE SEAL.

Generic Characters.

Cutting teeth, and two canine teeth in each jaw.
Five palmated toes on each foot.
Body thick at the ſhoulders, but tapering towards the tail.

Synonims.

Vitulus Oceani, *Rondeletii*, 453. 458.
Phoca, *Geſner Piſc.* 830. *Klein Quad.* 93. *Briſſon Quad.* 162.
Seal, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 270.
Phoca vitulina, *Linn. Syſt.* 56.
Kassigiak, *Crantz Hiſt. Greenl.* i. 123.
Le Phoque, *de Buffon*, xiii. 333. *tab.* xlv. *Schreber*, cxxxiv.
Le Veau Marin, ou Loup-de Mer, *Belon Poiſſons*, 25.
Phoca sive Vitulus Marinus, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 189.

THE object of our preſent contemplation has been found, with ſome variety, in almoſt every quarter of the globe; particularly towards the north and ſouth; near the Arctic Circle, and the lower parts of America in both oceans; near the ſouthern extremity of Terra del Fuego, and among the floating ice, as low as ſouth lat. 60 deg. 21 min. It is alſo an inhabitant of the Caſpian Sea, and of the freſh water lakes, Baikal and Oron.

Its body, which is covered with ſhort, ſmooth hair, commonly meaſures from five to ſix feet in length: its head and noſe are flat, with full black eyes, large whiſkers, oblong noſtrils, and a forked tongue. Its upper jaw contains two canine, and ſix cutting teeth; and its lower jaw has two of the former, and four of the latter. Each of its feet is furniſhed with five toes, armed with ſtrong ſharp claws, that enable it to climb the rocks with facility. Its tail is ſhort; and its colour various.

Seals are ſaid to exhibit a conſiderable ſhare of ſtrength and agility in the water, where they find an ample ſupply of food and paſtime; feaſting on various ſorts of fiſh, and ſporting about ſhips and boats without the leaſt appearance of timidity. They cannot, however, continue long beneath that element, but are frequently obliged to riſe for breath, and are often ſeen floating on the ſurface of the ocean.

The female uſually brings forth two young ones at a time, which, for a ſhort ſpace, are white and woolly: theſe are ſuckled on rocks, or in caverns, for about ſix weeks, when they are conducted by their mother to the ſea, and inſtructed, by her example, in the means of procuring a future ſubſiſtence.

In ſummer they ſleep on rocks, or ſand banks, from whence, if ſurpriſed, they precipitate themſelves into the ſea: but if their diſtance from that aſylum precludes the poſſibility of an immediate eſcape, they ſcramble along the ground, throwing up the ſand or gravel with their hind feet, at the ſame time uttering a cry expreſſive of lamentation. If overtaken, they make a moſt vigorous defence with their feet and teeth: yet their docility is great, and their natural diſpoſition gentle, inſomuch, that Dr. Parſons (A) has recorded an inſtance of one which was ſo completely tamed as to crawl out of its tub at command, ſtretch itſelf at full length, extend its neck to ſalute its maſter, and return into the water purſuant to his direction.

Prodigious numbers of theſe animals are found in the Caſpian Sea, where they poſſeſs a great diverſity of colour; ſome being perfectly white, others black, others mouſe-coloured, and others ſpotted like a Leopard. On crawling to the ſhore they are immediately killed; yet they are followed by others, which ſhare a ſimilar fate.

At the approach of winter they go up the Jaik, and are killed in great numbers on the floating ice. They are likewiſe deſtroyed, occaſionally, by Wolves and Jackalls, for which reaſon the Seal hunters are very aſſiduous in driving away thoſe ferocious Quadrupeds.

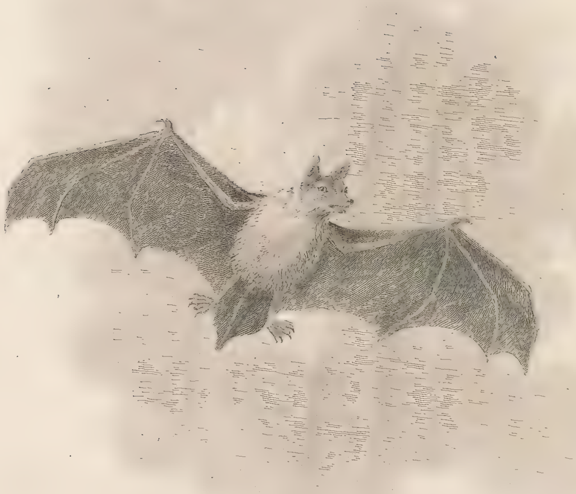
(A) Ph. Trans. xlvii. 113.

THE SEAL.

The ſeaſon for taking Seals is in October and November; when the hunters enter the mouths of the caverns at midnight, with torches and bludgeons, and, after ſtationing themſelves in the moſt advantageous manner, alarm their prey by making a great noiſe. The Seals then advance in a confuſed throng from all parts of the cavern, filling the air with the moſt piteous moans; and, when the firſt crowd is paſt, whoſe reſiſtleſs impetuoſity might prove fatal to the hunters without proper caution, great numbers of the young ones are killed by a blow on the noſe, which ſpeedily terminates their exiſtence, though any other method would prove tedious, and poſſibly ineffectual.

The fleſh of the Seal is ſometimes eaten by voyagers, and was formerly conſidered as an article of luxury, as appears by a bill of fare of a coſtly entertainment, given by Archbiſhop Nevil, in the reign of Edward IV. At preſent, however, the animal is hunted chiefly for its ſkin, which is uſed for numerous conveniencies, and makes a beautiful kind of leather; and for its oil, of which more than eight gallons are commonly extracted from a young one.

The Seals found in the lakes Oron and Baikal are ſmaller than thoſe which inhabit ſalt waters, but ſo extremely fat as to ſeem almoſt ſhapeleſs. The voice of the young ones is clear, and ſomewhat ſimilar to the mewing of a cat; but that of the old ones reſembles the hoarſe barking of a dog.



Publiſhed by W. Darton, J. Harvey, & W. Belch, London, Jany 15th 1802.

ORT EARED BAT.

THE BAT.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

The fore feet furniſhed with long extended toes, connected by broad, thin membranes, that reach to the hind legs.

Ears ſhort.

SYNONIMS.

BAT, FLITTER MOUSE, *Raii Syn. Quad.* 243.

VESPERTILIO, *Plinii*, lib. x. c. 61. *Geſner Quad.* 766.

REAR MOUSE, *Charlton Ex.* 80.

VESPERTILIO MAJOR, *Klein Quad.* 61.

VESPERTILIO MURINUS, *Linn. Syſt.* 47.

COMMON BAT, *Pennant Hiſt. Quad.* vol. ii. p. 319.

LE GRANDE CHAUVE-EOURIS DE NOTRE PAIS, *de Buffon*, viii. 113. *tab.* xvi.

THIS ſingular animal ſeems to form a connecting link in the great chain of nature, between the Quadrupeds and the winged inhabitants of the air. Yet we are at no loſs reſpecting its true ſtation in natural hiſtory, ſince its wings are the *only* mark of alliance with the birds, whilſt it is evidently related to the four-footed tribe, both by its internal and external formation. In either capacity, however, it ſeems imperfect; its motions on the ground being awkward and encumbered, its aſcent difficult, and its flight ill-directed: a circumſtance which has induced Mr. Ray to give it the ſignificant appellation of the "Flitter Mouſe."

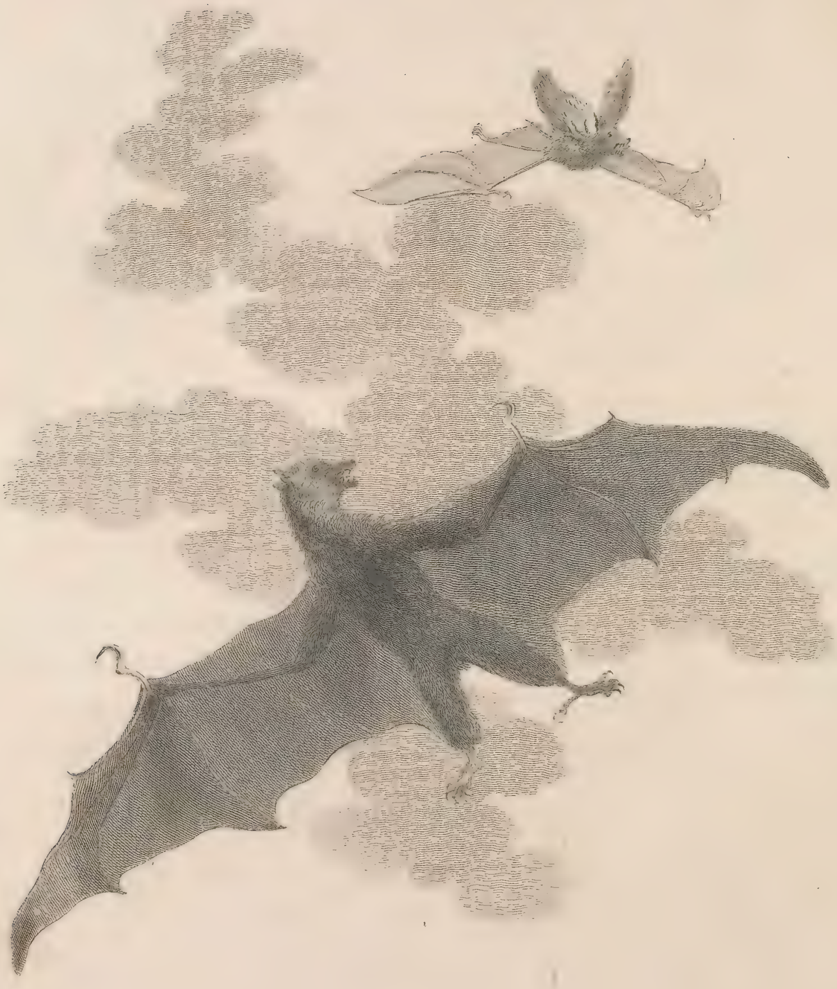
THE BAT.

The body of the common Bat is about two inches and a half long; covered with ſhort, ſoft fur, of a mouſe-colour, tinged with red. Its eyes are very ſmall. Each of its jaws is furniſhed with cutting teeth; and its ears are ſimilar to thoſe of a Mouſe. Its wings, or membranes, are of a duſky colour, and extremely thin: they reach from the fore feet to the tail; and, when extended, meaſure nine inches. Its hind feet are divided into five toes, pointed with claws.

The Bat makes its firſt appearance at the commencement of ſummer, when it frequents the ſides of glades and ſylvan walks, in the duſk of the evening, and frequently ſkims along the ſurface of the water, in queſt of gnats and other inſects, that conſtitute the chief part of its food. Towards the end of its favourite ſeaſon it retires into caverns, hollow trees, or dilapidated buildings, where it either ſuſpends itſelf by its hind feet, or covers itſelf with its wings, and ſinks into a kind of lethargy, which continues till the loud ſtorms of winter have ſubſided, and cheerful ſpring has announced the approach of her gay ſucceſſor.

The female Bat produces two young ones at a time, which ſhe nouriſhes with her milk, and carries with her in her aërial excurſions.

Theſe animals inhabit almoſt every part of Europe, and are univerſally known in England. Some varieties are alſo found in Guinea, Jamaica, America, and the Molucca Iſles.



LONG EARED BAT
&
TERNATE BAT.

Publiſhed Feb.y 23.d 1805 by W Darton J Harvey & W Belch London.

THE LONG-EARED BAT.

GENERIC CHARACTERS.

The fore feet furniſhed with long, extended toes, connected by broad, thin membranes, that reach to the hind legs.

SYNONIMS.

VESPERTILIO AURITUS. V. CAUDATUS, ORE NASOQUE SIMPLICI, AURICULIS DUPLICATIS CAPITE MAJORIBUS, *Linn. Syſt. Nat.* 47.

VESPERTILIO MURINI COLORIS, AURICULIS DUPLICIBUS, *Briſſon Quad.* 160.

SOURIS CHAUVE, RATTE PENADE, *Belon. Oyſ.* 147.

L'OREILLAR, *de Buffon,* viii. 118.

LONG-EARED ENGLISH BAT, *Edwards,* pl. 201.

THIS ſpecies nearly reſembles the Common Bat, but is rather ſmaller, and has leſs of a reddiſh tinge. Its diſtinguiſhing mark is the uncommon ſize of its ears, which are more than an inch long, and very wide. They are furniſhed with a kind of ſecondary ear, or internal flap, ſerving as a protection to the auditory orifice. It is common in England, lodging in great numbers in the holes of old buildings, under eaves, and in cavities of rocks, where they become torpid in the winter.

THE TERNATE BAT.

Generic Characters.

The fore feet furniſhed with long, extended toes, connected by broad, thin membranes, that reach to the hind legs.

Synonims.

Vespertilio Vampyrus. V. ecaudatus naso simplici, membrana inter femora divisa, *Linn. Syſt. Nat.* 46.

Vespertilio ingens, *Cluſ. exot.* 94.

Canis volans ternatanus orientalis, *Seb.* i. 57.

La Roussette, *de Buffon*, x. 55.

Vampyre Bat, *Shaw.*

THIS large ſpecies of Bat is a formidable animal, meaſuring from four to five or ſix feet from one tip of the wing to the other, with a body of about a foot in length. Its general colour is a deep reddiſh brown, brighter on the upper part of the neck and ſhoulders, and likewiſe on the under ſide of the body. It has a ſharp, black noſe; four cutting teeth above and below, and large and ſtrong canine teeth; a pointed tongue, terminated with ſharp prickles; large, naked ears; and no tail. The ſingle claw on its wings is large and ſtrong; the talons on its feet ſtrong, crooked, and flattened ſideways. Its flying membrane is divided below quite to the rump.

This ſpecies is found in Guinea, Madagaſcar, and all the iſlands in the Indian Ocean, as well as that from which it takes its name. It is not gregarious, though many often reſort to the ſame tree in queſt of food.

They fly by day. While eating, they make a great noiſe. Their ſmell is rank; and they bite fiercely when taken.

Linnæus has given the name of Vampyre (an imaginary blood-thirſty monſter) to this ſpecies, from its propenſity to ſuck blood from perſons in their ſleep; which, from its ſize, it is able to effect to an alarming degree. It inſerts the point of its tongue into a vein, and drains the blood till it is ſatiated, fanning the air all the time with its wings, which occaſions an agreeable ſenſation in thoſe hot climates, and prolongs ſleep. Perſons lying with their feet uncovered are often thus blooded, till they are near paſſing into the ſleep of death. Cattle are likewiſe attacked by theſe animals, and are ſaid to be frequently deſtroyed by them. It is conjectured, from the uncouth appearance and diſguſting qualities of the large Bats, that they have given riſe to the ancient fables of Harpies.

FINIS.

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